

Army Is Caught in a Yeltsin-Parliament Tug-of-War

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The Russian Army found itself on Thursday caught in an escalating power struggle between President Boris N. Yeltsin and the conservative parliament, which sought to summon the president to explain his relations with military commanders.

The parliament speaker, Ruslan I. Khasbulatov, who is seeking to strip Mr. Yeltsin of his power to appoint the cabinet and manage the government, suggested that Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev should be fired, Reuters reported.

The head of Mr. Yeltsin's security council, Yuri Skokov, appeared in parliament on Thursday and denied that the president's apparatus was preparing a coup.

General Grachev and other military leaders reportedly have stressed that the army should stay out of politics. Reciting from the Soviet Union's breakup and from budget cuts so steep that some recruits have starved to death, the military seems for the most part uninterested in playing politics.

WORLD BRIEFS

U.S. Envoy Warns of Aid Cut to Israel

TEL AVIV (Reuters) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel warned Thursday that Washington may have to cut its \$3 billion annual aid to the Jewish state.

China Warns U.S. on Trade Status

BEIJING (AP) — China warned the United States Thursday not to make an "unwise" decision by attaching conditions to the extension of the special trade status for Beijing.

Germany Drops Hijacker Extradition

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Germany will not ask the United States to extradite a young Ethiopian who hijacked a Lufthansa passenger jet and forced it to land in New York, Frankfurt prosecutors said Thursday.

UN Chief Sees Somali Transfer May 1

UNITED NATIONS, New York (AP) — Secretary-General Butros Ghali has proposed May 1 as the date to transfer command from the U.S.-led force in Somalia to a UN combat-ready force to deliver aid and disarm bandits.

In a written report to the Security Council, Mr. Butros Ghali proposed that a new UN force eventually numbering 28,000 troops would replace the U.S.-led force that originally comprised about 37,000 personnel from 23 countries, including about 17,000 U.S. troops.

Major Moves to Reward Achievers

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major announced changes to Britain's centuries-old honors system on Thursday, saying it would no longer reflect class distinctions and reward achievement rather than long service.

For the Record

A German lawyer found guilty of informing on the environmentalist Greens and other leftists in West Germany in the 1980s on behalf of East German secret police was given a suspended 21-month sentence Thursday.

Correction

Because of an editing error, Oscar Wilde, the Irish writer, was incorrectly identified in the European Topics column in Thursday's editions.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Chinese aviation officials pledged to enforce safety rules that have been ignored in the industry's rush to expand, the China Daily said Thursday.

The Iranian Embassy in Britain announced Thursday that it was increasing the price Britons will have to pay for a visa to Iran.

Heavy snow crippled Romania and much of Bulgaria on Thursday, closing schools and disrupting road, rail, air and river links, although international air traffic to Bucharest was maintained.

French railroad ticket office workers called a 24-hour strike on Friday to protest a new computerized booking system, unions said Thursday in Paris.

Sweden Convicts Smuggler
STOCKHOLM — A Swedish court jailed a Russian captain on 18 months on Thursday for smuggling 81 refugees into the country.

A Suicide Ruling On Petra Kelly And Her Lover
BONN — Investigators said Thursday they had closed the file on the death last year of the founder of Germany's Green Party, Petra Kelly, saying she and her lover ended their lives in a suicide pact.

The decomposed bodies of Miss Kelly, 44, and her companion, Gert Bastian, 69, a former army general turned pacifist, were found in their Bonn home on Oct. 19. It became clear that Mr. Bastian had shot Miss Kelly, then himself, with a .38-caliber pistol, but whether the environmentalist was murdered or agreed to a suicide pact had remained a mystery.

But Bonn prosecutors said the circumstances pointed clearly to a death pact by the couple, apparently for personal reasons. Both were members of parliament.

U.S. Disputes Critic Of Airdrop Policies

Bosnia Serb Says Relief Effort Could Lead to a Wider War

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States vowed Thursday to continue humanitarian airdrops into Bosnia and denied that its policies toward the former Yugoslav could spark terrorist or wider war.

"We just reject the notion that humanitarian relief has caused fighting in eastern Bosnia," said the White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers.

She was speaking after a grenade blast shattered windows at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and responding also to an open letter from the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, who said that "ill-advised American humanitarian cooperation could overnight transform a local conflict into a Balkan war, perhaps a world war."

The Karadzic letter also said that the United States might be the target of terrorist attacks and suggested that last Friday's bombing at the World Trade Center in New York was "fresh testimony to the extraordinary volatility and immediate dangers" of direct involvement in Bosnia.

But Mr. Karadzic said at a new conference later Thursday that he missed the point. "Please neglect this sentence in the letter because it missed the point."

Ms. Myers, disputing Mr. Karadzic's contention about the U.S. relief mission in Bosnia, said the suffering in the former Yugoslav republic should not be laid "at the foot of the humanitarian relief effort but at those who are the aggressors."

The State Department condemned the Karadzic letter as "irresponsible and disgraceful."

Secretary of State Warren M.

French Reporter to Sue Over Phone Tap

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

PARIS — The newspaper Liberation printed documents Thursday appearing to demonstrate that the French presidential palace tapped the telephone of a leading investigative journalist for Le Monde during a two-month period in late 1985 and early 1986.

Edvy Plenet, the journalist, said in an interview that there was no question that the 16 summaries of his conversations between Dec. 30, 1985, and Feb. 26, 1986, were genuine. Stamped "Secret Source," the documents published relate conversations Mr. Plenet had with his editor at Le Monde, his girlfriend and a number of business contacts or friends.

At the time, Mr. Plenet was a thorn in the side of President Francois Mitterrand's Elysee Palace. He had published several articles in 1985 uncovering the fact that French secret service agents blew up a boat in Auckland harbor belonging to the environmental group Greenpeace. And he was investigating appar-

ent misdeeds by a special anti-terrorist unit established in the Elysee in 1982.

"Le Monde and I will now file suit over these phone taps, which clearly constitute a crime," Mr. Plenet said. "The important thing is to discover who ordered the taps. I can only express my personal conviction that it is impossible that President Francois Mitterrand would have been unaware of them."

Muriel de Pierbourg, a spokeswoman at the Elysee Palace, declined any comment on the matter.

The affair, merely the latest in a series that has come to characterize the Mitterrand era, seemed certain to embarrass the president in the run-up to parliamentary elections later this month in which the Socialist Party is widely expected to suffer a stinging defeat.

Telephone taps were rampant under de Gaulle and his successor, Georges Pompidou. But the Socialists had vowed to curtail the practice, and Mr. Mitterrand has often boasted that the press in France has never been more free than under his 12-year rule.

The taps were apparently carried out by the anti-terrorist unit working for the presidential palace. Signatures on the documents correspond with the names of officials working there at the time. The unit was disbanded in 1988 after it became clear that its members had tried to plant incriminating evidence on three suspected Irish terrorists.

Mr. Plenet was working in early 1986 on the case of the three arrested suspects, who were later released largely as a result of his articles.

The head of the Elysee security unit, Christian Prouteau, was sentenced to 15 months in prison for his role in the case. But he won a reprieve on appeal and later emerged as head of security for last year's Winter Olympics in Albertville—a role for which Mr. Mitterrand awarded him the Legion of Honor.

Liberation did not reveal the source for the documents it published. Mr. Plenet said he believed they were genuine because they included conversations with people that he had met just once and personal discussions with his girlfriend over a journalism prize he had been awarded.

In Gray Paris Suburb, Electoral Sparks

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

SARCELLES, France — With a new conservative parliament considered a foregone conclusion in French elections this month, a rare passionate spark has flared in a squalid Paris suburb where one of the Socialist Party's stars may be unseated by a candidate making his first run for public office.

Two weeks ahead of the vote, the duel between the two men has become a tight race with national consequence. Amid a monotonous national campaign, the personal edge of the race in Sarcelles affords a glimpse of a fuzzy, emotional debate about the real condition of France that colors the thinking of all political parties.

The challenger is a newcomer, but hardly a political neophyte: Pierre Lellouche, 42, has spent five years as the top foreign-policy adviser to Jacques Chirac, leader of the largest conservative party, Rally for the Republic.

Disappointed with his success as a writer and then as an eminence grise, Mr. Lellouche took the plunge of challenging Dominique Strauss-Kahn, minister of industry and foreign trade in the ruling Socialist government and member of parliament for Sarcelles, a traditionally leftist district.

If a conservative landslide enables him to pull off an upset victory, Mr. Lellouche could emerge overnight as a prominent figure in the new parliament — and perhaps the next government.

It is standard practice in France for a high-flying party adviser to be parachuted into a safe parliamentary seat, but Mr. Lellouche, denied the safe seat he initially sought in Paris, played a long shot in challenging Mr. Strauss-Kahn.

Although the Socialist's collapsing popularity means that even former Prime Minister Michel Rocard may be absent from the next parliament, Mr. Strauss-Kahn was strongly favored to retain the seat that he carried easily in the last parliamentary election, in 1988.

But Mr. Lellouche gambled on winning his spurs in a tough campaign that showed his mettle as vote-getter and, with no strong local candidate in view, persuaded the national leadership of the Rally for the Republic to send him to carry the conservative banner.

Sarcelles and the urban areas edging it contain many of the social ills that afflict suburbs of France's major cities: decaying buildings and a deteriorating school system, rising racial tensions, unemployment, drug dealing and violence.

In contrast, the leading candidates — neither of whom lives in Sarcelles — are dashing examples of the Parisian intellectual elite. The Harvard-educated Mr. Lellouche, as a writer and journalist, including a column in Newsweek magazine, was a prominent French hawk during the final decade of the Cold War.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn, 43, had a meteoric academic career as an economist before becoming a Socialist Party official, then cabinet minister. He has acquired his own international reputation as a hard-charging advocate of French trade interests.

Both candidates have at their sides accomplished wives. Mrs. Strauss-Kahn — better known by her professional name, Anne Sinclair — is a television journalist, host of the country's top political talk show.

Marie-Laure Lellouche, a painter, has abandoned her Left Bank studio to manage her husband's electoral bid. Her 18-hour days have been directed at surmounting the incumbent's initial advantage in name recognition.

Trumpeted in the 1950s as a brave new satellite city, Sarcelles saw its experimental vocation overwhelmed when housing had to be hastily constructed to accommodate waves of French refugees from Algeria after the revolution there.

These relatively prosperous newcomers forged a politically liberal community that promptly subsided into a dormitory suburb of Paris. But this comfortable haven was transformed in the 1980s as the Sarcelles area was inundated by thousands of immigrants from Muslim North Africa, black Africa and the French West Indies.



French Deputy/Agencies Photo-Press

EXIT MINISTER — Health Minister Bernard Kouchner leaving the podium after being pelted with eggs and potatoes by grain growers Thursday in the town of Luce, near Chartres.

Such foreign flavor fuels many people's fears that every cluster of young men is an ethnic gang. Syringes in the stairwells of malodorous apartment buildings, a school teacher's confession that he is physically afraid to give bad grades to some students: There is abundant evidence of economic and social collapse.

At a senior citizens' club in the Sarcelles synagoga basement, a score of women complained about a rising rate of robbery, mainly by drug users, and declining police strength.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn claims that Sarcelles' difficulties are being exaggerated by conservatives. He insists that racial harmony has fared better in this community than in other cities, especially American ones, afflicted by similar problems. He promises voters that he will seek to make richer towns pay more to help poorer ones in an act of national solidarity.

But Mr. Lellouche insists that the first priority should be enough extra police to deter crime, and attacks Mr. Strauss-Kahn for failing to bring jobs to the district.

Today, half of the local population comprises people from Third World countries. Nearly 60 percent of the housing is state-subsidized, low-cost dwellings.

Germany Begins Tightening Laws on Asylum
The Associated Press

BONN — Germany began rewriting its asylum laws Thursday to end an open-door policy and try to curb far-right extremism.

"Recognized asylum seekers are not the problem in Germany," said Dieter Wiefelspütz, addressing parliament for the Social Democrats.

Even the liberal opposition Social Democrats have agreed that Germany's constitutional guarantee of asylum to the politically oppressed must be restricted. The government contends that almost all refugees are in Germany for economic reasons.

Because of opposition support, parliament is expected to change the constitution and enact a package of asylum laws with the necessary two-thirds majority when it votes in late April.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters, claiming that 74,350 asylum seekers had entered Germany in the first two months of 1993 alone, said it was "high time" lawmakers did something about the problem "for the preservation of the internal security of our country."

Mr. Seiters told the Bundestag, the law-making lower house. "The people expect lawmakers to deal with this quickly."

German politicians have long argued that rising neo-Nazism and far-right extremism in the country have been triggered by the social and financial hardships of the refugees. Seventeen people were killed by rightist extremists in 1992.

Germany has said it will continue to offer refuge to war victims and those truly oppressed in their homelands.

Under the proposed changes, people entering Germany from safe third countries could be immedi-

ately turned away at the border or expelled once in the country. Such countries would include members of the European Community, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech republic — all countries that border Germany.

The proposed laws would also list countries no longer considered politically repressive, such as Bulgaria and Romania. Refugees from such countries would be entitled to drastically shortened asylum hearing procedures.

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FIRST 100 DAYS / RESHAPING HEALTH CARE

POLITICAL VOICES

Federal Workers May Get More Political Rights

WASHINGTON — The House has voted to overhaul the Hatch Act to allow federal employees to engage in partisan politics outside the office on their own time.

Republican Is Candidate for 'Drug Czar' Post

WASHINGTON — A former New Jersey governor, Thomas H. Kean, is a contender for the "drug czar" position, one that is charged with directing the government's war on drugs.

Congress Backs Clinton on Jobless Benefits

WASHINGTON — Following the Senate's lead, the House approved a \$5.7 billion measure that would extend unemployment benefits for an estimated 2 million workers, handing President Clinton a victory in the first test of his economic plan.

Latino Ask Clinton for 'Fair Share' of Jobs

WASHINGTON — Frustrated Latino leaders are stepping up pressure on President Clinton to put more Hispanics in top administration posts.

Quote / Unquote

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, on whether the president's health care proposal should be attached to his economic program: "I'm not about to tell the leadership of the Senate or the House how to package this thing. We're going to keep our options open." (NYT)

Away From Politics

- Laying the groundwork for the prosecution's contention that four police officers intentionally beat Rodney G. King in violation of his civil rights, an expert on police procedures testified that the beating was a "clear violation" of Los Angeles Police Department policy.

White House to Medical Lobby: Don't Get Too Close

WASHINGTON — The White House on Thursday rejected the American Medical Association's request for a bigger voice in remodeling the nation's health-care system, saying it is keeping all special interest groups at arm's length.

The association's executive vice president, Dr. James S. Todd, in a letter this week to the administration's chief health-care adviser, Ira Magaziner, asked for more direct involvement in the administration's reform process.

Changes "will fall without the support of the profession," Dr. Todd wrote. "Bring us into the process and we can help make it work," he added.

The White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers, responded Thursday that "it would be a conflict of interest, we believe, to have representatives of various interest groups" as official members of the task force working groups.

Snapping at the Hand That Fed Clinton Well

Loophole He Assailed Gave Candidate A Big 4-Month Lead in Contributions

By Michael Wines, New York Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — As presidential candidate, Bill Clinton, who pledged to tame "big money interests" by putting an end to unlimited, unregulated campaign donations, was bringing a hand that generously fed him, a new analysis of campaign spending concludes.

The analysis, by the lobbying group Common Cause, says the Democratic National Committee amassed \$20.1 million in unregulated "soft" money donations in the last four months of 1992.

Virtually all was collected and spent on behalf of Mr. Clinton's reelection, Common Cause said. And virtually all came from big unions, corporations and wealthy individuals who could not have given such big donations directly to Mr. Clinton without violating federal campaign laws.

Current federal law bars companies and unions from giving any money to federal candidates and limits individual donations to \$1,000 an election and political action committee to \$5,000 an election.

Soft money donations sidestep those limits by going not to the candidates, but to the national parties, ostensibly for get-out-the-vote drives and other party efforts. In practice, presidential campaigns help raise the money and dictate how much of it is spent.

The Common Cause analysis, based on reports to the Federal Election Commission, showed that the Democrats had far outpaced the Republican National Committee in collecting soft cash. The Republicans gathered about \$12.8 million in the same four months for President George Bush's reelection campaign, federal reports show.

In the two-year election cycle from January 1991 to December 1992, however, the Republican National Committee out-collected the Democrats, taking in \$32.4 million in soft cash to the opposition's \$29.9 million.

During that time, 72 big donors each gave more than \$100,000 to the Democrats. They included big unions (the United Steelworkers of America topped the list, with \$398,876 in gifts), big companies (the Atlantic Richfield Co., the oil giant, gave \$171,573), and individuals like Alida Rockefeller Mesinger, a Minneapolis member of the Rockefeller clan and former wife of a department store heir, who gave \$300,000.

Computer software executives, an insurance executive and a commodities broker were among six other big donors who each gave \$200,000 to the Democrats.

Mr. Clinton repeatedly campaigned on a promise to curb the "political action committees, industry lobbies and cliques of \$100,000 donors," who he said donate soft money to "buy access to Congress and the White House."

The president of Common Cause, Fred Wertheimer, said the onus was on the president to change a political system that clearly would favor him, as an incumbent, should he decide to seek a second term in 1996.

Ms. Myers added that the White House was encouraged by the association's "willingness to lock seriously at some of the president's proposals and to work with us on achieving real health care reform."

Seeking a Voice

Philip J. Hitt of The New York Times reported from Washington: Fearful of being left out of the debate on reshaping the health-care, the American Medical Association has told the White House that it would drop its long-held and formidable opposition to some proposals favored by President Bill Clinton.

In return, officials of the doctors' lobby said, they are asking for a seat at the table as the policy group led by Hillary Rodham Clinton works out what promise to be sweeping changes in medicine.

In a letter to Mr. Magaziner, Mrs. Clinton's right-hand man on health care, the group signaled its willingness to support the idea of "spending limits" on health care, to accept a National Health Board to review prices and practices in medicine and to accept that large "managed care" organizations like preferred-provider groups or health-maintenance organizations may be a large part of the health-care system in the future.

The association put caveats on some of these items, and repeated its opposition to other items under discussion by the White House, like the proposal for a "global budget" that would set a strict limit on the amount the nation spends on health care.

But it did offer to support a cap plan, probably less restrictive than the global-budget approach, under which doctors would accept national or regional health-care spending limits if they can help set them.

A medical association spokesman said it is a "reasonable reading of the proposal" to say that the overall spending limits would be at the level of inflation in the rest of the economy. Last year, that was 2.9 percent, while inflation for doctors' fees and other medical costs was 6.6 percent.

In the past, the lobby and its allied doctors have been credited with killing health-insurance proposals in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, defeating President Harry S. Truman's national health

program and halting President Jimmy Carter's hospital cost-containment measures.

But in the new climate in Washington, according to various American Medical Association officials, the group worried that it was being left behind as Democrats on Capitol Hill, other medical organizations and such health-industry stalwarts as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association have embraced "managed competition" and some limits on price increases.

Meanwhile, Representative Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said that Congress was unlikely to pass a comprehensive health-care bill this year, despite strong urging by President Clinton and the Senate majority leader.

Mr. Rostenkowski, whose panel has written a large portion of the nation's tax and health laws, said Wednesday that Mr. Clinton's health legislation would probably be too big and too complex to combine with the president's economic package.

But he and other lawmakers expressed confidence that Congress would pass a health-care bill to the president's liking next year.



PIPE DOWN — Supporters of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada trying to shout down a heckler, center, during a speech by Mr. Mulroney at a Progressive Conservative Party fund-raiser in Toronto. Several protesters heckled Mr. Mulroney over the North American Free Trade Agreement, the accord eliminating trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

5,640 Enter IHT Competition on Clinton's First 100 Days

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — More than 5,600 readers responded to the International Herald Tribune competition asking them to predict President Bill Clinton's popularity rating after 100 days in office, as determined by the first Louis Harris poll at the end of April.

The winner will receive a round-trip Paris-New York flight aboard an Air France Con-

corde, or an equivalent travel credit. Runners-up will receive first class and business class trips or their equivalent.

Of the 5,640 readers who replied from 90 countries, almost half predicted that Mr. Clinton would have an approval rating of just over 60 percent.

In the event of a tie, readers were asked to guess at the level of the International

Herald Tribune World Stock Index on April 30, the 100th day of the presidency, and on the level of the Dow Jones average that day along with the dollar-Deutsche mark and dollar-yen closing rates in New York.

The average of all answers for the tie-break questions was: Trib Index, 90.6; Dow Jones, 3304.4; U.S. dollar in Deutsche marks, 1.7; U.S. dollar in yen, 130.3.

'Messiah' in Texas Releases Another Child, but Not His Own

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WACO, Texas — Federal agents, promising not to use force to capture a self-proclaimed messiah and more than 100 of his followers, won release Thursday of another child from the cult amid fears that some sect members may commit suicide.

A spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said a boy was released from the sect's fortress on the rolling landscape near Waco, the 20th child to be freed since the siege began following a Sunday shoot-out.

Negotiations by telephone with those inside the fortified compound, led by David Koresh, have been focused on bringing out more children, an FBI spokesman, Jeffrey Jamar, said.

"It's not a bargaining. It's not a bartering at all," he said. "It's a matter of they agree together that the children should come out."

Mr. Koresh is deciding which children are released, the agent said. Eighteen children and 90 adults are believed to be still inside the cult compound.

Otherwise there was little movement on either side in the standoff, which may have taken as many as 20 lives. At least 450 federal agents are surrounding the Texas farm.

The Houston Chronicle reported that officials might cut off power to the farm complex in an effort to further isolate Mr. Koresh, the 33-year-old leader of the sect, and his Branch Davidian followers.

Mr. Koresh, who had promised the surrender peacefully Tuesday, later told the FBI he was awaiting further instructions from God before deciding what to do.

The shoot-out began when federal agents stormed the compound

wounded in the gunfight and seemed to scream in pain during a radio interview Sunday night.

Asked about Mr. Koresh's health on Thursday, Mr. Jamar said, "He seems to have recovered miraculously."

The former rock musician took over the sect in 1987 after a violent battle with its former leader, the Branch Davidians split from the Seventh-day Adventists in 1933. They believe in the imminent end of the world.

The shoot-out began when federal agents stormed the compound

He said it was worrisome that Mr. Koresh — who reportedly had as many as 15 wives — had so far released none of his own children, perhaps because he wants them to die with him.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, whose department controls the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said Wednesday that agents had been concerned from the start about "a Jonestown possibility" — a reference to the 1978 mass suicide of more than 900 followers of Jim Jones at the Peoples Temple in Guyana. (Reuters, AP)

Short on Hard Cash, China Is Selling Americans a Lot of Guns

By John Pomfret

WASHINGTON — The Chinese armed forces exported close to 2 million guns to the United States from 1989 through 1991 and set up or bought a number of companies here in an effort to earn hard currency and obtain American technology for military use, according to U.S. officials and documents.

Acting aggressively on a 1987 White House decision to allow Chinese arms imports, Beijing's army already has become the largest foreign supplier of small arms to the American market, according to

documents supplied by the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The move into the United States is indicative of the growing power and confidence of the Chinese military.

Between 1989 and 1991, according to statistics obtained from the Treasury's arms bureau through a Freedom of Information Act request, 1.92 million Chinese arms and thousands of tons of ammunition were brought into the United States. While complete 1992 statistics on imported Chinese weapons are not yet available, they appear to

surpass 1991, a record year, U.S. Customs Service sources added.

One of the Chinese-made guns, an AK-47 semiautomatic manufactured by a huge defense firm, China North Industries, or Norinco, was used by a gunman to kill two people and wound three others in front of CIA headquarters on Jan. 25.

"Chinese guns are flooding the market," said a high-ranking official of the Treasury's arms bureau. "They're the K-Mart of weapons manufacturers."

Other businesses of the People's Liberation Army, as the armed forces collectively are known, import pig iron, basketballs, bicycles, car jacks, barbells, silk jackets and negligees into the United States from factories in China. Additional companies are seeking to buy American businesses, especially those specializing in high technology.

In a move that has concerned some U.S. military officials, one firm linked to the military, China National Aero-Technology Import-Export Corp., established a small airplane parts manufacturing company near Seattle after its attempt to buy a similar but larger firm was stopped by the Bush administration in 1989.

The move by Chinese military firms into the United States — which started in the mid-1980s — has occurred with little or no public debate in this country. The White House began allowing China to sell weapons here in 1987.

Terrorists Turn Tables on Drug Lord

By James Brooke, New York Times Staff Writer

BOGOTA — Pablo Escobar Gaviria, a veteran practitioner of terrorism, is suddenly spinning as a target of terrorism.

In a modern gang war complete with faxed communications and clandestine news conferences, a powerful faction of the Medellin cocaine ring has turned on its godfather and vowed his destruction.

"May Pablo Escobar disappear from the face of the earth," a hooded member of Colombia Libre recently told Semana, a news weekly here. Free Colombia is the civilian wing of a paramilitary Medellin terrorist group known as Pepes, the Spanish acronym for People Presented by Pablo Escobar.

Free of scruples about using terror and armed with inside information acquired during years of service for Mr. Escobar, these groups appear to be turning the tables in the seven-month manhunt for the nation's most-wanted criminal.

"The Pepes can do what the security forces can't do — blow up someone's house, kidnap people and kill them," Defense Minister Rafael Pardo said. "They are waging a dirty war."

Having lost his monopoly on terrorism, the billionaire trafficker sounds more and more like a hunted man.

In faxed answers on Tuesday to questions submitted by The New York Times through his lawyers, Mr. Escobar whittled a long list of surrender conditions down to one — U.S. residency visas for his family.

Wednesday, the U.S. Embassy here rejected that option, issuing a statement that his "offer to exchange protection for his family for his surrender is unacceptable."

The Colombian prosecutor, Gustavo de Greiff, told a radio station Wednesday that his office would consider giving protection to Escobar family members if they made a request.

Left largely on his own, Mr. Escobar is discovering that former friends can be the worst enemies.

"Some of the Pepes were close to him," a law enforcement official here said. "Now they are very dangerous to him."

In one month, the Pepes have killed more than 20 Escobar loyalists and carried out 11 dynamite attacks, causing damage of about \$8 million to properties owned by the Escobar family.

Operating in the Medellin area, Pepes squads have burned ranches and chalets of family members, exploded car bombs outside their apartments, and burned the trafficker's prized collection of antique cars, including a 1933 Pontiac supposedly owned by Al Capone.

"We want to make Pablo Escobar feel the effects in his own flesh of his brand of terrorism," the group said in its inaugural communiqué.

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TOWER BOMBING / PAPER TRAIL

As the News Broke, an 'Odd Duo' Kept the Press at Bay

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — They made an odd duo — a Bush administration holdover acting as attorney general and an FBI director whose job is in jeopardy — holding forth Thursday before reporters eager for details of a break in the World Trade Center bombing.

Acting Attorney General Stuart E. Eizenstat and FBI Director William S. Sessions had scheduled the press conference at FBI headquarters the day before to announce a nationwide white-collar crime program that turned out to be a crackdown on telemarketers.

But the FBI auditorium was standing-room-only for another reason: The White House spokesman, George Stephanopoulos, had confirmed that an arrest had been made in last Friday's World Trade Center attack that killed five people and injured more than 1,000.

Mr. Stephanopoulos told reporters at the White House that Mr.

Gerson would "be prepared to take questions on this" at a press conference.

Not exactly. The acting attorney general warned the impatient crowd from the start that it would have to wait for a detailed description of the telemarketing fraud and arrests before it got to hear what it came for.

"There's something at least semi-nominal about telling a bunch of reporters to be patient on what obviously is a big news day," Mr. Gerson acknowledged.

Then, after the telemarketing presentation he announced what everybody already knew, that an arrest had been made.

And he and Mr. Sessions declined to say much more.

With dozens of TV cameras ready to go live, they claimed that to say more could "impair that operation."

Mr. Gerson said, "Suffice it to say that we're interested in more

than the single individual who has been apprehended." But he would not confirm that the authorities were planning to arrest others.

For more than 30 minutes, Mr. Gerson and Mr. Sessions delivered variations of "no comment," some more elegant than others.

Question: "Is it that you won't say or you don't know?"

Mr. Gerson: "I know things that I won't say." (Laughter.) "Fire away."

Question: "Who made the arrest? What agencies were involved?"

Mr. Gerson: "I would like to relate any of the matters that discuss either the arrest of the person nor the identification of the person."

There was no hint of Mr. Sessions' problems with a critical report by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility that accused him of ethical misdeeds. The White House said it would wait until a Clinton administration attorney general is confirmed before deciding whether to let Mr. Sessions complete his 10-year term.

Mr. Gerson did refer to some criticism he has faced as a Bush administration holdover, still in the

job only because President Bill Clinton's first nominee, Zoe Baird, withdrew amid an uproar over her illegal hiring of undocumented aliens and her failure to pay Social Security taxes for them. Mr. Clinton's second nominee, Janet Reno, has not been confirmed.

"I see enough familiar faces here that have suggested things to me about whether the Justice Department or the FBI is in disarray or whether we're getting the job done," Mr. Gerson said.

and arraignment would continue normally, despite the notoriety of the crime.

"What we are most concerned about is a thorough, complete investigation," Mr. Gerson said.

If the initial news accounts prove to be correct, the bombing could well be traced to one of the most dangerous underground terrorist groups in the world — the Muslim Brotherhood.

This group has operated primarily in Egypt but also has followers in the New York City area. (AP, Reuters)

named the man as Ibrahim Gibrayev.

The rapidity of the arrest of the suspect at the truck-terminal agency — within six days of the bombing — came as a surprise, because earlier Thursday the head of the FBI's New York office, James Fox, said it would take a long time to find the culprit.

"Bombing investigations in the past, where we didn't have a real breakthrough, have taken years," he said.

Mr. Gerson and Mr. Sessions told reporters that the investigation



Mr. Sessions, the FBI director, meeting the press on Thursday.

AIRDROP: Accurate Delivery Proves Too Risky, Limiting U.S. Efforts

(Continued from page 1)
 intended to change the military equation in the Balkans.

In announcing the plan, the White House was careful to couch the operation in humanitarian terms, cautioning that it did not necessarily portend deeper U.S. military involvement. Although not intended to prevent the Serbs from starving the Muslims, the administration also underscored that aid would be dropped to Serbs and Croats, too, to demonstrate Washington's evenhandedness.

Despite those assertions, however, the mission clearly represented a deepening of the American commitment to protect the Bosnians from the Serbian siege. But in stepping up their attacks in eastern Bosnia, the Serbs are raising the ante.

If the airdrops were intended to impress the Serbs, they appear to have fallen short. In a defiant "Open Letter to the American People" released on Tuesday, the lead-

er of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, warned that the "ill-advised American humanitarian cooperation could overnight transform a local conflict in a Balkan area into a world war."

After criticizing the airdrops, Mr. Karadzic sounded an ominous note, warning that the United States might face terrorist attacks. "The tragic and deplorable terrorist incident at the World Trade Center is fresh testimony to the extraordinary volatility and immediate dangers of direct involvement," he wrote in the letter. He retracted that sentence Thursday.

"The purpose of the airdrops was to indicate to the Serbs that we would not let them win by using starvation as a means," said Zalmay Khalilzad, who directed the Pentagon office of policy planning in the Bush administration. "If our purpose is to prevent a Serb victory or encourage reasonable negotiation, this instrument of dropping food from 10,000 feet is not working."

Mr. Khalilzad was referring to

the Serbian attacks in eastern Bosnia. "In a sense," he added, "we are back to the drawing board."

The administration had hoped that the airdrops would show the Serbs the futility of trying to stop the relief effort by blocking ground convoys to towns in eastern Bosnia. But American officials said they had not seen a greater Serbian willingness to allow the convoys. On the contrary, some American analysts have concluded the Serbs are preparing to expand their siege by moving into likely airdrop zones.

The administration and its allies tried to deal with the setback by starting a diplomatic effort at the United Nations to condemn the assault in which Serbian nationalists took Cerska, a Muslim town that was the target of the first airdrop.

But at the Pentagon, the dominant byword continued to be caution, reflecting the military's worries about being drawn into the Balkan conflict. From the start of the airdrop the Pentagon has

sought to carry out the operation with the smallest possible risk to U.S. pilots, by dropping the supplies from heights of more than 10,000 feet (about 3,000 meters).

General Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, continues to favor a short operation, Pentagon officials said. Reflecting the Pentagon caution, Defense Secretary Les Aspin proclaimed the mission a success on Tuesday and added that the Defense Department was considering a pause to reassess the operation before deciding if further drops were needed.

Mr. Aspin's hedged statement produced an outcry that led President Clinton to underscore Wednesday that the relief effort was going forward.

"We're continuing the airlift plan," Mr. Clinton said. "This phase of it is going forward just as planned."

But if Mr. Clinton had a plan for contending with the new surge in "ethnic cleansing," he did not say.

UN Panel on War Crimes In Yugoslavia Omits Women

(Continued from page 1)
 GENEVA — United Nations-appointed experts on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia said Thursday they regretted that women had been omitted from the five-member panel, especially because of the difficulty of investigating allegations of mass rape.

"I consider it a defect of the commission that there is no woman on it," said Frits Kalshoven, chairman of the panel appointed in October by the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali.

He added that he would like to add a woman to the panel, known as the Commission of Experts.

Mr. Kalshoven told reporters that the panel was making allegations of systematic rape of six major areas of its investigations on which it aimed to have "verified information" by the end of July.

"We will have a fair amount of conclusions about four months from now," he said.

William J. Fenwick, a Canadian military lawyer on the panel, said the commission was trying to include women experts where possible in its investigations, especially because of the special problems of the rape allegations.

He said the allegations of systematic rape of thousands of women, mostly Muslim victims of Serbian forces, were "the most difficult aspect of our investigation."

Mr. Kalshoven said he regarded as "very important" the report of a team of four women doctors who told the UN Human Rights Commission that their January investigation concluded there had been widespread rape.

best provide reassurance to both groups only if both the United States and Russia agreed on an overall strategic approach and provided troops, the Serbs say.

"The main problems with the suggested Russian approach are that the Russians have enough problems of their own without the Balkans to worry about, and neither European nor U.S. public opinion is likely to welcome deep and long-term involvement in the Balkans."

But it is as clear to Serb moderates that the idea of a Greater Serbia achieved by "ethnic cleansing" and other violent means is unacceptable to the world community, and that Europe alone is incapable of bringing back peace.

SERBS: Moderates in Belgrade Welcome U.S. Efforts to Open the Road to Peace

(Continued from page 1)
 the violence," said Predrag Simic, the director of the Institute of International Politics and Economics here.

It may or may not be true, as Mr. Simic and other moderate Serbian intellectuals and politicians insist, that the dream of a "Greater Serbia" was not the main reason why Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia took up arms in 1991 and 1992, that instead it was the insecurity and fears of Serbs in those places after they declared independence that set off the violence.

Another intellectual, the celebrated former dissident communist Milovan Djilas, believes that Mr. Milosevic did indeed dream of a

single state over all the Serbs in the Balkans. But Mr. Djilas suggested that even the Serbian leader must now realize that this is no longer a realistic possibility.

"The Serbs bear the largest share of responsibility for what has happened to Yugoslavia," Mr. Djilas said. "But the Croats also have an authoritarian and chauvinist government, and the Bosnian Muslims wanted dominance in an independent and unitary state." He called this totally unrealistic.

The best chance of success for a cease-fire, he and others here believe, will come if the United States and Russia agree on the solution and provide troops to enforce it.

"The only solution is a UN mandat-

er in both Krajina and Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Radoslav Stojanovic, leader of the opposition Serbian Democratic Party.

In Serbia enclaves like Krajina, and in eastern Croatia, and those in eastern Bosnia where battles were raging last week, he and others believe, tens of thousands of people will be needed to keep the belligerents separated after a cease-fire.

Some think it could take as many as a half-million peacekeepers to keep the fighting from spreading to Kosovo and Macedonia and pulling Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece into a wider war.

"We have to find a new way of living here in the Balkans," said

Darko Janasekovic, a Serbian expert on Muslim culture. "We in Yugoslavia destroyed Yugoslavia. We must also build the new situation in the future, but we need a more positive influence from outside than we have seen up to now."

If the United States and Russia quickly agree on a cease-fire plan in Bosnia, and provide troops to support it, in this view, neither Serbs nor Muslims could continue to believe that they have more to hope for on the battlefield than at the peace table. The Serbs traditionally look to Russia for support and the Muslims, as people in Belgrade see it, expect protection from the United States.

UN peacekeeping forces could

Uzbek Chief Vows No Islam Radicals

(Continued from page 1)
 TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — President Islam A. Karimov vowed Thursday to stop Islamic fundamentalism taking root in his Central Asian state.

In a rare interview with a group of foreign correspondents, Mr. Karimov said fundamentalism lay at the heart of instability in neighboring Tajikistan, where Islamic extremists fighting bloody rearguard battles against former Communists who were back control last year.

"Islamic fundamentalism threatens Uzbekistan," he said, vowing to take steps to ensure it did not take hold.

idea that there might be a connection between the New York bombing and local groups. One official even had joked Thursday morning that "our people are not that obedient."

Mr. Mubarak's comments in an interview, offered the most authoritative description so far of the government's strategy for dealing with the growing appeal of so-called political Islam and with a recent deadly wave of violence by Islamic extremists.

Over the past 10 months, such violence has left scores of Egyptian civilians and police dead, and, for the first time, has seen Islamic extremists target foreign tourists, three of whom have been killed, as a way to undermine the government by striking at its leading source of revenue.

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Job Done in Somalia

Three months after the successful and casualty-free landing of American troops in Somalia, the man who spearheaded the deployment, U.S. Special Envoy Robert Oakley, is returning to the United States. The country he leaves behind is still without a government, a legal system or any semblance of a permanent peace. Today's Somalia, however, is no longer the place of unspeakable suffering and mass starvation that shocked and shamed the world a few months ago. For that, Ambassador Oakley can rightly come home from his diplomatic endeavors with a sense of accomplishment. It may be helpful to recall that a pacified and economically rehabilitated Somalia was never the objective of this bold, risky and unprecedented mission. The reason for intervening with a show of American leadership and military power last December was to get food to the starving. The purpose of the security-for-relief mission has been achieved: The grip of the gangs on the grain has been broken, convoys are moving relief shipments, and aid agencies no longer have to rely on bribery to feed the hungry. The business of keeping roads open, resolving conflicts among rival warlords and reconstructing civil authority is now, as it

always has been, the responsibility of Somalis themselves under the care and guidance of the United Nations. As an understandably impatient United States prepares to remove the bulk of its forces, perhaps by May, the looming question is whether this operation, costly in casualties, lives and money, will make a lasting difference. The answer to that is in the hands of the Somalis — and other nations that have an obligation. The transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation has already slipped behind schedule, because of continued outbreaks of violence but also because of UN dithering. Secretary-General Butros Butros Ghali should press member nations which enthusiastically supported humanitarian intervention when the preponderant forces were to be American, to demonstrate an equal willingness to send their own replacement troops to Somalia now. The brutal, power-hungry clans and armed teenage marauders were no match for the United States and the other deployed forces. The groundwork has been laid for a UN operation with teeth. A critical testing period has arrived in the Horn of Africa — and more than Somalia is on trial. — THE WASHINGTON POST.

Inter-American Affairs

After a false start, the Clinton administration has come up with a sound nominee to be assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Alexander Watson is a seasoned career diplomat who served as U.S. ambassador to Peru and most recently as deputy chief of mission at the United Nations. As important, putting him forward means that the Senate confirmation hearings will not be dominated by snarling exchanges about Fidel Castro and the future of post-Castro Cuba. To avoid that prospect, the Clinton team backed away from a Cuban-American it had initially considered for the same vital post, Mario Baeza, a Wall Street lawyer who specializes in privatizing state-owned enterprises, was denounced as soft on Mr. Castro by Cuban-American hard-liners in Miami. Mr. Baeza's critics never gave him the courtesy of a hearing, pointing up the deep emotions stirred among Cuban-Americans in Miami and elsewhere. Cuba is but one of a dozen countries that contend for Washington's attention. Huge Brazil is beset by a collapsing economy and corruption scandals that brought down its president. Democratic Venezuela has been

rattled by attempted coups. A peace accord in El Salvador might come unstuck if its government fails to purge the armed forces. Nicaragua's freely elected president, Violeta Chamorro, is challenged on every side. Peru under an erratic president is still besieged by Shining Path guerrillas, Colombia by drug lords, and so forth. In Havana, a failing tyranny stumbles toward history's dustbin. Fidel Castro could hardly have doubted weariness in his remarks to the foreign press last week: "This has been a very long race — too long. I feel I am a slave to the revolution." Since seizing power in 1959 he has tormented eight U.S. presidents. Now, with the collapse of communism, Cuba has lost its arms suppliers, its trading partners and its ideological bearings. The safest, wisest course for Washington is to let Cuba fester, and shun actions that could be construed as treating the island as booty to be devoured by émigrés hungry for old privileges. The cool, professional eye of an Alexander Watson offers the promise of keeping Cuba, and the rest of the hemisphere, in manure perspective. — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Presidents and the Law

American presidents and Supreme Courts have had their odd dealings over the years, but this may be the first time the court has been called upon to uphold a campaign flip-flop. As a candidate, Bill Clinton condemned as immoral the Bush administration's policy of forcing boatloads of refugees back to Haiti, and he praised a court that found that approach illegal. But just before his inauguration, Mr. Clinton, adopting a huge influx of refugees, defied the Bush policy. This week he asked the Supreme Court to find that policy legal or, better still, to rule that courts cannot order the president to obey a treaty and immigration law. The high court can do president and nation a huge service by denying this latest overblown claim to executive power. Despite a refugee treaty and a 1980 law instituting it, George Bush and Bill Clinton both claim the right to return masses of refugees to Haiti without first ascertaining which among them deserve asylum. Mr. Clinton says there is a "big difference" in his program because it is designed to save the lives of refugees in rickety boats. But Mr. Bush gave the same justification. More candid, perhaps, is Mr. Clinton's remark that "maybe I was too harsh in my criticism" of Mr. Bush during the campaign. This week's argument repeats the Bush claim that the commander in chief, deploying vessels on the high seas to intercept Haitians, is impervious to court restraints. The Bush Justice Department said that a lower court — the same one praised by

candidate Clinton — "intruded intolerably" in military and foreign policy matters in a lawsuit on behalf of Haitian refugees. More politely, the Clinton Justice Department now asks the high court to allow U.S. vessels to continue "under the direction of the Coast Guard and the president and not the federal courts." But the refugees' lawsuit, which the government once denounced as frivolous, does not ask judges to man the Coast Guard cutters. Contrary to the view of fans of an omnipotent executive, it is not a national weakness that the independent judiciary interprets the treaties and laws, telling the president when he reads them wrong. Some said that the president was the winner last year when the Supreme Court, asked to enforce an extradition treaty with Mexico, allowed the kidnapping of a Mexican national in his own country for trial in the United States. Some victory. The decision told the world that America's vaunted judiciary would sit by while the executive branch scoured its international agreements for loopholes. The basic solution is to restore democracy to Haiti, relieving pressure to flee that country either out of fear or in search of a better life. Meanwhile, the United States is legally bound not to return a fleeing Haitian without deciding eligibility for asylum. The Supreme Court can declare that simple matter of justice, depriving the Clinton administration of a shabby legal victory and sparing the nation an international black eye. — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

India Is Not an Island Reports of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's political decline might have been premature. The destruction of the mosque at Ayodhya by militant Hindus together with the subsequent riots and sectarian strife had weakened Mr. Rao's authority and put market reform in jeopardy. But then came the budget announcement from Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, which made clear that not only would reforms continue, they would be accelerated. Most overdue was the announcement of a fully convertible rupee for trade. Past Indian governments, as Mr. Singh told Parliament, have used an artificially valued rupee to subsidize imports at the expense of exports. The Indian economy has paid a price for this form of protection in terms of fat and inefficient domestic enterprises and an unattractive climate for foreign investors. Perhaps the only Indian export that such barriers promoted was the one the country can least afford: the exodus

of a talented and educated people to parts of the world where their enterprise and creativity are allowed to flourish. There is still little chance of the Indian economy's being confused with the free-trade regimes of Hong Kong and Singapore. But no one should miss the larger point: that an increasingly global economy means no country can be an island. If even India, with a sixth of the world's population, can no longer close itself off from the virtues of competition, who can? — Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong). Bosnia: A Little, and Late Reports that Muslims were killed while retrieving U.S. food and medical supplies dropped into Bosnia highlight the operation's dangerous hit-and-miss nature. But at least President Bill Clinton, and now the Russians, are doing something — unlike their European counterparts. The pity is that Washington did not get involved a year ago. — Gulf Daily News (Manama, Bahrain).

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Clinton Seems to Be Off to a Good Start

By Flora Lewis

WASHINGTON — Two deadlines are driving President Bill Clinton's foreign policy thinkers as they plunge into shaping guidelines for what one top official called America's "first post-Cold War administration." They are the early April summit in Copenhagen with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, and the mid-July Tokyo summit of seven industrial nations, which Mr. Yeltsin doubtless will attend, although there is a problem of who should invite him. Despite the promise to focus on domestic issues, there is clearly a sense that national American and

American impetus to get them moving together. Some scarcely visible structural changes have been made to promote better teamwork inside Washington, partly in the way key appointments are made, which accounts for some of the delays, partly by special links between the new National Economic Council and the long-established National Security Council. People dealing with overlapping domestic and international issues

how GATT and the free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada will help U.S. recovery and provide American jobs.

That is a key to the Clinton approach, an energetic concentration on mobilizing the domestic support needed to carry decisions through to execution. It is why he keeps racing around the country as though he were still campaigning for election and shies away from too much specialization in foreign affairs, although advisers are aware that international policy will not work unless he is seen to be involved. Key foreign policy issues are being addressed with small steps so far — encouragingly in the right direction toward more cooperation, but without the explanations that would assure foreign partners of where Mr. Clinton really intends to go. This is a gap that has provoked criticism about a lack of policy.

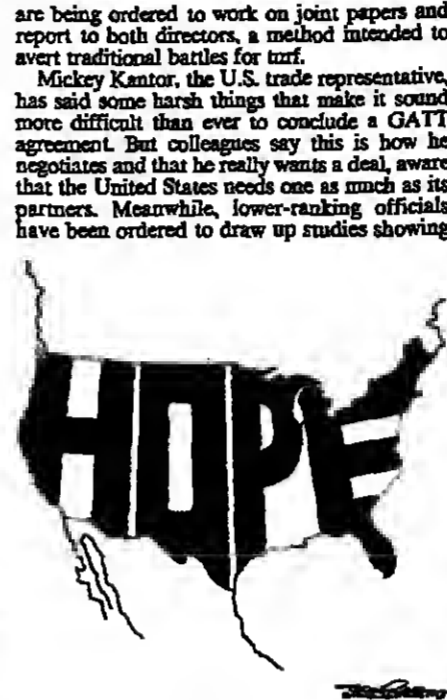
It does reflect prudence, a concern not to go too fast without full consideration of consequences. But it also reflects a deliberate policy of leaving articulation of foreign objectives until the basis is in place, rather than setting goals before figuring out how to move toward them.

Mr. Clinton seems to want to leave the job of speaking to the world for America to others for now, while he speaks as directly as possible to Americans and seeks to create a revival of energy and confidence. Many of the others have not yet been confirmed by the Senate and are not allowed to speak, but their approach is knowledgeable and sounds reassuring.

My impression at this early stage is that if the president's economic program can maintain public enthusiasm and begin to show effect, the rest of the world will get the kind of America it has long been saying it wants — a vigorous, eager partner but not a hegemon ordering others around.

That means that the rest of the world will have to be willing to share more responsibilities. Other national leaders will have to do a better job of explaining to their own publics why cooperation, which means compromise, is necessary and beneficial and why some local interests will have to give way to larger international interests.

It won't be easy, but from up close, Washington looks to be getting off to a good start. If it works, everyone stands to gain. © Flora Lewis.



The rest of the world may get the kind of America it has long been saying it wants — a vigorous, eager partner but not a hegemon.

international affairs cannot be separated, particularly in economics. The United States is not about to turn its back on the world, although neither will it accept lonely responsibilities.

The decision to air-drop supplies to eastern Bosnia is an example of the approach, although admittedly it was a symbolic, tactical and initial step toward grappling with the much larger problem of Balkan politics.

Allied governments told the United States to help push through the Vance-Owen scheme for enclaves in Bosnia, or go it alone with some other plan. Washington definitely wants others involved, including Russia, and is feeling its way to longer-term engagement.

NATO is handling the military planning, a way of assuring continued American participation and of enticing the Russians, who are eager for recognition as security partners. Even France has quietly dropped objections to extending NATO's role and indicated willingness to take part in this aspect of its operations.

There is a little more time to prepare the G-7 summit in Tokyo, but like the first Clinton-Yeltsin meeting, it is seen as a critical moment to launch the momentum. In the last few years, those annual sessions have produced wishful rhetoric and scant results on urgent cooperation to restore economic growth, agree on new trade rules and organize help for Russia. All the governments are looking inward now, and the new administration recognizes that it will take firm

Philippines: A Long Road, but Ramos Is Under Way

By Philip Bowring

MANILA — Things are looking up in the Philippines, although there is still a long way to go. Correct economic policies and considerable luck for a country so prone to natural disasters will not be enough to revive a nation whose institutions are as poorly maintained as its physical infrastructure. But after a slow start, President Fidel Ramos is beginning to look serious about tackling some fundamental problems. He may appear an unlikely figure to do so. He was associated with both the Marcos kleptocracy and the indecisive Aquino government. Despite a clean personal image, he had command of the notoriously corrupt Philippine Constabulary (now part of the national police). He is dull in a nation that loves rhetoric. He scraped into office with a mere 23 percent of the vote. He had to work with a Congress controlled by opposition parties. His first eight months in office have been dominated by headlines about power cuts and a spate of kidnappings for ransom, mostly of ethnic Chinese businessmen. (These abductions, it is widely believed, could take place only with the connivance of senior police.) But now there are signs of remedial action and resolve. Most significant have been long-ignored efforts to tackle corruption in law enforcement. A former chief of police has been charged with graft. His successor has resigned. Further purges are in prospect. There are still many Filipinos who doubt that Mr. Ramos has the nerve to clean up the police. But urged on by the public, which has become less resigned to crime, the president now has the initiative.

He is also taking on the judiciary, which poses three problems for efficient government: corruptibility;

convoluted procedures that frustrate justice; and power plays by judges who have frustrated executive decisions by hearing sometimes dubious judicial challenges to them. The judiciary has held up electricity price rises, adding to the power crisis and putting World Bank energy loans in jeopardy. Mr. Ramos recently forced the resignation of a Supreme Court judge who had been

The country still faces immense problems, but the president looks serious about tackling some of them. He has shown resolve, and an openness to the outside.

unduly influenced by a lawyer for Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which had gone to court to try to preserve its phone monopoly. Other resignations and retirements should enable Mr. Ramos to pack the court. Congress, although full of lawyers, is now sympathetic to broader reform of the judicial system.

The phone company case signals a willingness by the government to allow foreign competition to break up monopolies. There have long provided easy profits for the politically well-connected and are blamed for many of the nation's economic ills. Mr. Ramos is pressing ahead with tariff reforms to open up domestic industry to greater competition.

In the past, wholly alliances of left-leaning nationalists and protected local producers (many of them foreign-owned) kept a lid on competition, but economic nationalism has been waning in the Philippines. As in Latin America, such a policy is seen to have led to economic stagnation. Many of the younger Filipino business leaders are now more willing to face competition or seek alliances with dynamic overseas Chinese groups.

Mr. Ramos has signaled a less isolationist attitude with a series of visits to Asian countries in an effort to drum up investment and improve his country's battered image.

Through its own fault, the Philippines has missed out on the major waves of Japanese and Taiwanese investment in manufacturing in East Asia. But there is still money to be made if Mr. Ramos can improve the national image.

That may seem too much to expect in a fragmented society with a cumbersome political system and weak bureaucracy. But the president has gone out of his way to try to co-opt Congress to support his program.

Although his own party started with few official members in either house of the legislature, Mr. Ramos has used his powers of patronage and the political skills of the speaker to get members of the House of Representatives, all of whom face re-election in 1995, on his side. The Senate, too, is aware that the public expects more effective government. Senators are concerned that if the system cannot deliver, it will eventually be overthrown. They have responded positively to Mr. Ramos's efforts to tighten executive-legislative links.

The president may have less success in negotiating an end to the Communist and Muslim insurgencies. Both have been much diminished by the democratic process and suffer from internal rifts. Greater dangers to democracy still lurk among disgruntled officers in the armed forces. Mr. Ramos recognizes that effective government can neutralize such threats.

The Philippines, which only produces a small portion of the oil it consumes, may now be in store for some good luck. Philippine oil finds in the South China Sea used to be subject to wild exaggeration. The latest ones, by a Shell-led group, seem to have been underplayed. It appears that by 1995 about half of the country's oil needs will be produced locally.

The economic impact of the loss of the U.S. military bases has not been absorbed. Many believe that the nation will be healthier without America as a too-convenient scapegoat. Nonetheless, the Philippines faces immense problems. The decay of roads, the power grid and other infrastructure under the pressure of low savings will slow the nation for years. So, too, will population growth, now at an annual rate of 2.5 percent. Official targets call for 7 percent GNP growth, but more realistic medium-term estimates are 5 to 4 percent.

Foreign debt is now manageable, but there is a significant overhang from the Marcos years, and this has been worsened by high interest rates to hold down demand. Another problem has been discouragement of productive investment in favor of money markets. Some relaxation of credit is likely this year, but the payments balance remains precarious.

One of several problems with the Philippine elite is its unwillingness to pay taxes. Government revenue is a low 14 percent of GNP, much of this from tariffs. After paying for debt interest, the armed forces, education and public health, there is little left for economic infrastructure.

Political power has long been used as a path to wealth through kickbacks and corruption. There is a lack of investment in job-creating industries, but Manila has a glut of condominiums and upmarket offices. With such examples at the top, it is hardly surprising that standards of public administration are abysmal.

Can President Ramos transcend the system that created him? At least now he seems to be trying. International Herald Tribune.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1893: Latin Quarter Riot PARIS — There was another disturbance in the Latin Quarter yesterday (March 4). It occurred at the Faculty of Law, when M. Ducros' lecture had to be suspended. The disturbance was caused by two lectures coming so close together that students complained they had not the time to breathe. After an unfortunate remark of M. Ducros, the riot commenced. Later, medical students started a disturbance, their grievance being that the first year of medical study ought to be suppressed as they consider it useless.

1918: An Ignoble Peace PARIS — The Herald says in an editorial: The whole awful story of the Bolshevik treachery is reflected in a shameless peace treaty concluded with the Central Empires. Lenin and Trotsky have traded their country to Prussia. The great Muscovite giant lies prostrate, shorn of his strength by those who first cajoled

Good Word From Syria: 'Gradually'

By Leslie H. Gelb

NEW YORK — Israeli diplomats told the new and untested American secretary of state to expect some kind of pleasant surprise in Damascus two weeks ago. President Hafez Assad of Syria, ever the seducer and strategist, did not disappoint. He gave Warren Christopher a secret diplomatic gift that could lead to a redefining of Middle Eastern battle lines and has already caused the United States, Syria and Israel to rewrap negotiating priorities.

The Syrian strongman told the chief U.S. diplomat that he was ready for a major deal with Israel. He repeated public statements about trading "total peace" with Israel for "Golan Heights." Then he unwrapped his dramatic present: He would no longer insist on instant or even early Israeli withdrawal. He would agree to both sides carrying out their obligations "gradually."

This was precisely the magic word Yitzhak Rabin had been looking for. The Israeli prime minister had signaled his desire to exchange land for peace, but the security risk had to be manageable. Israel could not and would not take the chance of withdrawal from the Golan until Syria actually demonstrated peaceful intentions, and that would have to take time. Israel would feel safe only if it could bring its forces down from the heights gradually.

The sides still have to define "gradually." More important, they have to agree on the meanings of "total withdrawal" and "total peace." Israel is prepared for a near-total pullout, not a total one. Syria wants everything out, including Israel's civilian settlements.

Mr. Assad's diplo-biz surprised the Christopher party. They had expected him to wait longer before making any big moves, in order to assess President Bill Clinton's mettle. But the Syrian's agreeableness on the Golan and willingness to abandon unreasonable Palestinian demands convinced the Americans that he had even larger purposes in mind.

The subtext in the Assad-Christopher dialogue was that Damascus wants to establish a new relationship with Washington and felt that this was the right time to move. Mr. Assad knows that the only way to the American heart is through peace with Israel.

Mr. Rabin was, of course, delighted with Mr. Christopher's report of Syrian gradualism. Given the prime minister's intense personal commitment to a treaty with Syria, the Americans feared that he might be too delighted — and try to sidetrack the autonomy talks with the Palestinians.

If anything, however, Mr. Christopher ended up more frustrated with the Palestinians than Mr. Rabin was. In his meeting with Palestinian leaders he showed great impatience with their inability to make any decisions.

They only wanted to talk about the return of their brethren deported by Israel and stranded in a Lebanese no-man's-land. Israel had already gone far to meet those concerns, but they kept demanding concessions that they knew Israel could not and would not give. Finally Mr. Christopher offered a generous solution — including U.S. pledges to speed up the deportees' return, oppose future deportations and support various United Nations resolutions prized by the Palestinians — and told them to take it or leave it.

The same is upshot of the Christopher-Mideast tour was that the key parties agreed to switch negotiating priorities. They are now readying the fast track for a Syrian-Israeli deal and have relegated the tedious but still critical talks on Palestinian autonomy to a slower lane.

Arabs and Israelis alike praised Mr. Christopher's first outing on terrain that has proved either a graveyard or a springboard for his recent predecessors. He gave away nothing to the Syrians, was tough with the Palestinians and prodded the Israelis.

His only tactical mistake was a failure to pay enough attention to Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, whose power now rivals or exceeds Mr. Rabin's in the governing Labor Party and whose ideas on regional issues like economic development and arms control deserve a better hearing.

Mr. Christopher has begun to reveal a wily negotiating and public relations style. Taking a page from Henry Kissinger's script on how to lower expectations, he started his Mideast trip saying that he was going out there only to listen. He brought home the possibility of much more.

The New York Times.

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him by alluring phrases and then betrayed him. He bargained with their Potsdam paymaster. Peace has been signed by the Bolshevik, but it is inconceivable that the nobler elements of the nation will accept such an ignominious destiny. Russia's potential strength is incalculable, and the giant may yet be irrevocable in his feet.

1943: Roosevelt Cartoon WASHINGTON — [From our New York edition:] A picture booklet, "Life of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thirty-second President of the United States," published by the government and distributed in eleven languages besides English, was unveiled today [March 4] on the floor of the House by Representative John Taber, a New York Republican, as "a lot of cheap political propaganda" designed "to promote a fourth term and a dictatorship." The cost of the booklet to the taxpayers was \$13,951,950. It depicts, in cartoon style, the life of the President from early boyhood to the present.

OPINION

To Tax, to Spend or to Cut and Run

WASHINGTON — "The supply-siders said you could reduce the deficit by cutting taxes," says a veteran Republican observer, "and they were wrong. The Clinton people say you can reduce the deficit without cutting spending and they are wrong."

By William Safire

Clintonomics — 'tax and spend and keep on thinking about cutting tomorrow' — is not our policy. We prefer cutting more and taxing less; high tax rates will bring back loopholes and armies of accountants.

The deficit is to cut spending and raise taxes at the same time. Too complex a thought, you say? You will be joined in your derision of this stunning concept by hordes of liberal economists who say that actually reducing spending now would drag down the economy, aborning the Clinton Recovery and throwing more people out of work.

5 percent growth rate, but this is widely seen to be too good to be true, and Democrats want stimulus by spending now and taxing a little later — while Republicans want to do neither and let the good times pick up steam.

supply-siders will say "never — let growth do it."

Our Movement's position: Do it now. This steals the best reduction ideas from both sides and offers Perotism without Perot. What you lose in fiscal stimulus you gain in fiscal predictability. (Many in our Movement come to rallies in fiscal drag.)

We grumble about how Mr. Clinton double-crossed us with that "New Democrat" stuff, and is governing far more leftily than he campaigned, but such is politics. Now that he is using deficit reduction as his rallying cry, we should insist he deliver the goods on real deficit reduction.

We say that we want Mr. Clinton to succeed, but what we mean is that we want him to succeed using our tax-a-little, cut-a-lot way — or at least by making his sales pitch his real policy.

Clintonomics as it has been revealed — "tax and spend and keep on thinking about cutting tomorrow" — is not our policy. Like the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan, we prefer that Mr. Clinton cut more and tax less, because his high tax rates will bring back all the loopholes and armies of accountants that bend business decisions out of shape.

If the goal is balancing the budget, the Tax-and-Cut Movement thinks the New Direction is off in the wrong direction. We like free markets, not "strategic trade" managed by bureaucrats managed by lobbyists for monopolies of the style favored by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, or "industrial policy" turning over subsidies to electronic highways.

But the liberals are in, and we cannot expect them to act like conservatives. All the Reasonable Right can do is try to cool the new president's hot ideological excesses and remind the singer of the meaning of the words in his song. In time, there will be a demand for change.

When Pulling the Plug Seems the Only Choice

By Philip Crawford

PARIS — The establishment in the Netherlands of rules by which a physician may help a terminally ill person take his own life is welcomed by those of us who have watched a loved one suffer through the final stages of a debilitating disease. The Dutch approach should serve as a model.

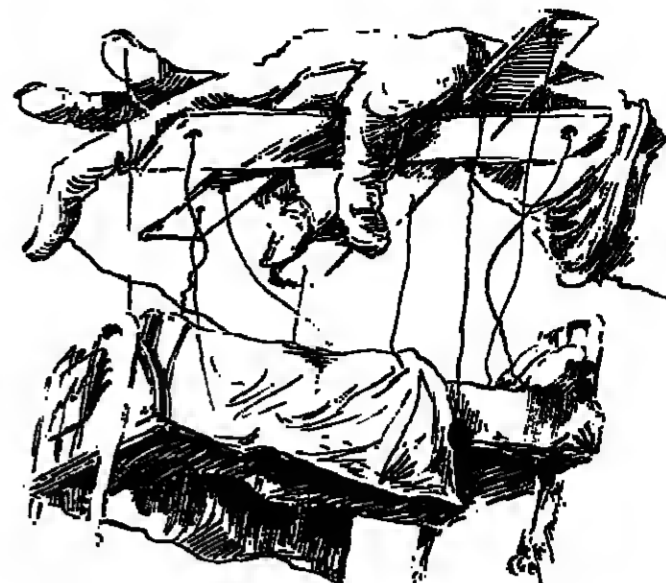
We bought a wheelchair. Getting him dressed became a project. Through all of this, he tried to go on performing his job as a utility company executive; he wanted to show that he had no intention of going gentle into that good night.

I remember wheeling him into a board meeting in New York one winter's day and seeing the horrified looks on the faces of people he had known for years who had no idea he was ill. He opened the meeting by struggling to say that, no matter how bad it looked, he expected to be in office for many years to come.

He wasn't, of course. Shortly after that, the company asked him to resign. The disease gained momentum, although doctors could not say what the full extent of disability would ultimately be. In some ALS cases, paralysis suddenly stops progressing and patients live much longer.

Soon, however, my father could barely move or talk. He communicated through a special computer, an innovation at that time. The computer's face was composed of little glass windows that corresponded to the letters of the alphabet. He sat facing it, with a special sensor taped to the rim of his glasses. By moving his head and directing the sensor's light beam into the windows, he could "type" messages onto a remote printout panel.

This system worked great for a while. But then his neck muscles went; he couldn't hold up his head. It hung like a rag doll's unless it was tied to the back of his wheelchair. The computer went back to the clinic.



The final chapter was set in a hospital room, with his emaciated body hooked up to a battery of machines that kept him alive. I remember sitting there talking to him about death. He was not even a "talking head," that awful term sometimes used to describe quadriplegics. He could move one eyebrow a little, and press your arm ever so gently with a finger. That's all. One look into the deep wells of his eyes told you in no uncertain terms that he had had enough.

I am convinced that in those dreadful straits he would have wanted us to pull the plug. I trust we would have figured out a way to do it. I am equally convinced that had "doctor-assisted suicide" been an option, he would have availed himself of it rather than live on as a paralyzed mope, as dependent as an infant on those around him.

MEANWHILE

nerve to carry it out, or to go public with their feelings. Dozens of them have told me as much.

"Of course I approve of it in theory," goes a typical response, "but I don't know that I could do it."

About 12 years ago, my father told me one day that he had something important to talk about. Seated on a bed in a New Jersey hotel room, he suddenly burst into tears; it was the first time I had seen him even misty-eyed. He had been told that he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, he said. The first symptoms had been muscle twitches in his left shoulder that would not go away. The doctor had told him that most ALS patients were dead within five years of diagnosis. He could already feel the stiffness spreading into his arms.

For two years his neuromuscular system gradually deteriorated. First, he couldn't button his shirt. Then, he needed a cane to walk. His speech became slurred, as if he had had too much to drink.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taiwan Is China

Regarding "Taiwan Is Not China" (Letters, Jan. 27) from Mei-chin Chen:

It is factually and historically incorrect to say Taiwan is not a part of China. All Taiwanese, except for the aborigines, who make up about 1 percent of the population, are Chinese who came from the mainland over the past 250 years. The local dialect of Taiwan is basically the same as that of Fujian Province on the mainland side of the Taiwan Straits.

The Health of Health Care

Regarding "What Price Medical Care?" (Letters, Feb. 18):

Barbara Raither writes that she is "grateful that I was in France covered by national health insurance" but does not record the cost involved, which is one of the highest in the world. Despite huge taxes, all European health systems, including the French apparatus, are in heavy deficit. As to the quality of the medicine concerned, American medical science is unquestionably the finest in the world.

Homophobia in France

Regarding "A French Perspective on War of the Sexes" (Book Page, Feb. 15) by Mary Blaine:

French self-congratulation at the expense of Americans is all too familiar. Madame Bañister to the contrary, gay-bashing is rampant in France as well as the United States. As just one example, an acquaintance of mine spent three

Defending the EMU

Your newspaper normally gives a balanced and intelligent view on world affairs. But on the monetary crisis, I get a different impression.

I feel you have been helping, de facto, those who would prefer what is left of the European Monetary Union to disappear from the international horizon for as long as possible.

In recent days this has stopped. But the articles on the "plot" that you published on the basis of remarks by Chancellor Helmut Kohl or Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy encourage me to send

Perfect Pitch

Regarding "West Indies Embarrass Pakistan" (Sports, Feb. 26): How can the Western Australian Cricket Association justify firing their

Patient, Heal Thyself

Regarding "Time to Look at Alternative Medicine" (Opinion, Feb. 3) by Charles R. Halpern:

es are Chinese just as Cantonese are Chinese and New Yorkers are American. What Mr. Chen is really arguing for is not democracy but Taiwan independence. In a democratic Taiwan, the people are sovereign and are free to choose their destiny. A large majority of the people realize that racially, culturally, linguistically and geographically they are inextricably tied to the rest of China. Political reunification will be difficult and may take a long time because of the huge income gap between Taiwan and the mainland.

But with the rapid economic changes occurring on the mainland (financed largely by investors from Taiwan and Hong Kong), social and political change will be unavoidable, and what may seem difficult today may become a reality in the not too distant future.

Groundsman on the Basis

groundsman on the basis that he prepared a perfect pitch for the fifth test match against the West Indies? All these years I have been under the impression that cricket was a gentleman's game played by gentlemen, although a few English and Australian players have given me reason to doubt this.

I cannot imagine Wimbledon's groundsman being fired for not rigging the grass courts to favor John Lloyd against Jim Courier (the difference in ability being nearly the same as Australia and the West Indies). The Aussies lost by an inning, which is a walkover. Even if they had waterlogged the pitch, allowed the grass to grow and dug up the crease in order to give themselves an advantage, what makes them think that they would have won? Anyway, firing a groundsman for being good is quite simply: not cricket.

Pierre par pierre, maison par maison, rue par rue, Vaison-la-Romaine reprend goût à la ville. Ses 5700 habitants aussi. Ils reconstruisent leur ville grâce à vous, et pour vous remercier de votre formidable élan de solidarité, ils s'investissent également pour vous. Pour continuer de partager avec vous sa richesse historique, pour vous offrir sa douceur de vivre, pour vous faire profiter de son emplacement privilégié au sein d'un tissu économique favorable. Mais pour cela,

N'oublions pas de ne pas oublier Vaison la Romaine

vacanciers, entrepreneurs, n'oubliez pas de ne pas oublier Vaison-la-Romaine et les villages de l'Ouvèze.



WASHINGTON & WORLD BUSINESS SETTING THE NEW AGENDA

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 29-30, 1993

In his inaugural address, President Clinton pledged an end to an era of deadlock and drift and a new season of American renewal.

This conference, co-sponsored by the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce and the International Herald Tribune, will provide a unique opportunity to learn first-hand what the President has accomplished in his first days in office and to see how his strategy for change will affect business relations between the United States and Europe.

The program will include cabinet members and other administration officials, members of Congress and influential representatives of American business, academia and the press.

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LEISURE

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Christopher Peckham is the author of "At Home in France," a book about eating and entertaining in private French homes.



Air Pass: For Big Savings, Don't Leave Home Without It

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

FLYING around North and South America, South Africa, Australasia, India, and even Europe, has never been cheaper—cheaper than it is for overseas visitors who have had the foresight to purchase an air pass before they left home. They are rewarded with the best bargains in air travel.

For example, the normal round-trip coach fare Chicago-Los Angeles-Dallas-New York-Chicago is \$1,823. Traveling on an American Airlines air pass you'll pay \$327. With a Delta air pass you can travel Washington-Atlanta-Dallas-Miami for \$349 instead of the normal fare of \$1,040.

Air passes originated in the United States following deregulation in 1978. Over the

Frequent Traveler

years, the variety of options worldwide has increased enormously and rules have been relaxed, which makes them a viable option for business travelers.

All of the major U.S. and Canadian carriers offer air passes for travel on their domestic networks. If you plan to visit more than three cities within North America on business or pleasure, an air pass can save you as much as 70 percent on the regular coach (economy) fares.

North American air passes are only sold to overseas visitors possessing a round-trip ticket on scheduled flights and must be bought before leaving home. Most airlines require you to fly either with them or a

national airline of the country you start from in order to buy their air passes. You may have to pay a supplement of \$100 or so if you fly in with a foreign carrier. The big no-no is that you cannot fly another U.S. airline.

Typically, an air pass is valid for 60 days from the time you start to use it. You normally buy it in the form of coupons, one for each segment of your itinerary. Sometimes each connecting flight counts as one coupon. With most air passes there is a minimum of two or three and a maximum of 10 coupons. You must specify your itinerary in advance but only the first sector needs to be pre-booked; you can leave flights open and change the date and time of travel. You may be able to change your routing for a penalty of around \$25 to \$50.

Choosing an air pass is a matter of deciding which airline best serves the cities on your itinerary, the links you prefer to use or avoid, and the gateway for entering and leaving. You can't go far wrong with the air passes of United, Delta, American, and Northwest because of their extensive networks. Prices are much the same: three coupons will cost you about \$300. Expect to pay \$75 for each additional coupon.

A good way to combine economy with flexibility is the unlimited passes marketed by Delta and Northwest. These are on a standby basis, but allow you unlimited travel for a fixed number of days. Delta's 30 and 60 day standby passes cost \$449 and \$749. Northwest's 30-day standby is \$499 and allows you virtually unlimited travel in the U.S. and Canada.

Some U.S. carriers offer sidetrips to Hawaii, Mexico, Alaska or the Caribbean. For example, American charges \$225 for flights

to Hawaii and \$160 for Mexico. Northwest offers Alaska (from Seattle) for \$325 and Hawaii (from Los Angeles) for \$375. USAir markets a good value Florida/Bahamas pass (allowing flights within Florida and between Florida and the Bahamas) costing \$129 for two, \$179 for three and \$229 for four coupons.

Aerolineas Argentinas sells a four-coupon air pass for \$339 allowing up to 30 days of domestic travel. You can buy a maximum of eight coupons costing \$459. Varig has a similar deal for travel in Brazil. A minimum five coupons is \$440 and you can buy up to nine additional coupons at \$100 each. Varig has teamed up with Aerolineas Argentinas to offer the Mercosur air pass which covers over 70 cities in the two countries as well as points in Paraguay and Uruguay. The cost depends on distance.

Air passes offer major savings in Australia and New Zealand. Qantas and Australian Airways market a joint pass. Two coupons cost from 370 Australian dollars (\$257), depending on the sectors and you can buy up to eight additional coupons for 140 Australian dollars each. Fly Sydney-Brisbane for 120 Australian dollars, a saving of around 50 percent, with the Australian Airlines air pass. You can buy as many coupons as you wish, and save 25 to 50 percent on normal fares. International travelers with Air New Zealand can buy its three-coupon pass at 399 New Zealand dollars (\$208). Eight flights costs 920 New Zealand dollars.

South African Airways sells a four- to eight-coupon African Explorer pass, valid for one month, which can save up to 60 percent on SAA domestic and regional flights to Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Namibia and Kenya. A journey starting, for example, in Johannesburg to Harare, Durban, and Cape Town costs 1,327 rand (\$423) with the air pass, compared with the normal fare of 1,969 rand.

Fly any carrier into India and you qualify for Indian Airlines' unlimited travel pass. This is valid for 21 days and costs \$400. The only condition is that you can only make one stopover in each city.

Air passes are starting to emerge in Europe as airlines learn how to compete with the new climate of liberalization. SAS markets a Visit Scandinavia air pass for domestic flights in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, plus international flights to all three countries. It is also valid in on Linjeflyg domestic flights in Sweden and Danair in Denmark. It is available to residents of some European countries. In Britain, for example, you can buy one coupon for £50 and two for £100.

Additional coupons (maximum six) cost £40 each. You must fly SAS to the region.

British Airways markets a pass for domestic travel in Britain in countries outside Europe and Israel. You can buy three to 12 coupons costing £39 each (£49 if you fly through London).

A month ago, Air France, Air Inter, Sabena, and CSA Czechoslovak Airlines, started jointly marketing a Euro Flyer pass to residents of North and Central America, South America, Africa (except North Africa), Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. The pass enables you to fly whenever you wish in economy class on all of the European routes of the four airlines for \$120 per flight sector. You can buy up to nine coupons that are valid for stays of seven to 60 days. You must purchase the pass with a round-trip to France, Belgium or the Czech Republic with a participating carrier.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Avoid Short Flights

Don't waste coupons on short sectors like New York-Boston. You'll get best value by flying distances like New York-San Francisco.

Check Eligibility Conditions

Do check whether you must fly an airline all the way from your city of origin to qualify for its air pass. As a rule you can fly a national carrier but not, for example, a competing U.S. airline.

Mostly Economy Class

Don't forget air passes are mostly for coach (economy). Northwest allows you to upgrade to first class.

Hub Connections

Do check whether connecting through a hub, if there's no direct flight, counts as one or two coupons. For example, USAir allows you fly New York-Charlotte-Miami for one coupon.

By Israel Shenker

Food for Thought in Swiss Museum

VEVY, Switzerland—Near the entrance to the Alimentarium, a food museum on the shores of Lake Geneva, stands the figure of a fabulous beast symbolic of animal food and worthy of the witch's brew in "Macbeth"—head of chicken, flank of sheep, body of cow, rump of pig, fins of fish. More down to earth is the museum garden outside, host not to flowers and shrubs but to herbs and vegetables.

Inside, the exuberance of nature is tamed into a series of exhibits displayed with ingenious skill. On three bright floors, filled with glass and white space, visitors can savor the pleasures of imaginative pedagogy.

Beyond the glassed-in entrance the first of three permanent exhibits, "From the Sun to the Consumer," portrays the flow of energy and matter through the food chain. The next exhibit, "Their Daily Bread," examines the habits of peoples widely separated, demonstrating how radically their diets differ. The third exhibit, "Food in the Past," shows how food has developed from its primitive beginnings, with displays of tools and techniques marking the progression.

The Alimentarium, in this resort town, was dreamed up by the Nestlé company's management in the early 1980s. A foundation, bankrolled by the company runs the museum.

Before the Alimentarium opened in 1985, the museum dispatched ethnologists from

the University of Neuchâtel to a Cameroon village to bring back material on millet, to the Philippines (rice), to the Peruvian Andes (potatoes and corn) and to Turkey (wheat). "Their Daily Bread" displays sample diets and rooms from these four corners of the world. Authenticity is guaranteed—except that the peanuts in the Cameroon hut proved so tempting that they had to be glued down.

One might also be tempted by the computer-analyzing body weight in the introductory exhibit, where you can key in the requested information (occupation, height, exercise habits) and see how you measure up.

Nearly, visitors are invited to test their sense of smell at the aroma table by dipping a slip of paper into a numbered slot and guessing which food provided the aroma.

Near scenes of banqueting displayed in "Food in the Past," are earphones on which visitors can hear actors impersonating celebrated chefs, including Marie Antoinette Carme (1784-1833) and Auguste Escoffier (1847-1935).

Carme: "My taste is very sure... and you have to admit I'm very gifted." Escoffier boasts that he uses only natural ingredients.

In most of its exhibits, the museum aims at neutrality. One display advises that "Alcoholic beverages are both foods and drugs." An-

other, coming perilously close to partisanship, suggests that "It's not chocolate that should be avoided but an excess of chocolate."

Recently, a display in the basement featured a chocolate-making machine with a capacity of 20 kilograms, or about 44 pounds. The machine has a roller that moves back and forth in a vat of milk chocolate, smoothing and blending and aerating. From molds in which the chocolate was poured, visitors were offered samples. Until the museum took countermeasures, curious children routinely dipped exploratory fingers into the cocoa butter. "They like to see with their fingers," said the museum's administrator, Monique Riedel.

In "The Sun to the Consumer," children can step inside a giant open mouth, perch on white frocks disguised as teeth—12 upper, 12 lower—and view a film entitled "King Alphonse's Teeth," in which a talking rabbit advises His Gutinous Majesty to adopt a health diet, brush the royal choppers after every meal and see the court dentist twice a year.

The museum claims that a tiny permanent exhibit in "Food in the Past"—about four inches (10 centimeters) long and less than two inches wide—is the world's oldest surviving staff of life, a bread roll from an Egyptian tomb dating to at least 2300 B.C. The minuscule treasure, looking like a burnt Little Mac caparisoned with a green pancake, is celebrated in the Guinness Book of Records. It has honey inside, and perhaps milk, with sesame seeds topside.

The museum flaunts not only farm machinery and tools but a clockwork mechanism (this is, after all, Switzerland) for a hand-forged tinsmith. Other exhibits include wood stoves, gas and electric ranges, pastry wheels, devices for stuffing sausages, butter molds and milk sterilizers. There are even baby bottles from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, from primitive to highest tech.

In photographs and on well-laden tables, there are scenes of plenty; other exhibits illustrate poverty. One graphic display in "Food in the Past" documents the drop in workers' buying power during the crisis

years of 1816-17, when the number of bread loaves a Vevey day-laborer could buy for his family fell from nine to three. Even for classless societies there is food for thought. With model cows and people, the museum illustrates how 2.5 acres (a hectare) of wheat can feed 20 people or two cows.

The chateau housing the Alimentarium, erected at the end of World War I, was once the headquarters of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, which moved to a modern glass colossus not far away. The interior of the chateau was all but gutted during its transformation into a space suitable for a museum. In front of the museum, isolated from its gastronomic splendors, stands a statue of Charlie Chaplin, in-tramp's guise, erected in memory of the actor who lived over Vevey.

The Alimentarium receives about 50,000 visitors annually, a third of them schoolchildren. The entry fee is \$3.30, about \$2 for children. The museum includes not only photographs of cafes but also a genuine cafeteria.

Israel Shenker, a former New York Times correspondent who travels frequently to Switzerland, wrote this for the Times.

THE ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Kunsthistorisches Museum (tel: 52.177). To June 27: "Die Welt der Maya." More than 300 objects explore the world of the Mayas spanning Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

BELGIUM

Antwerp
Koninklijk Museum voor Schone (tel: 236.78.03). To March 7: "De Bruegel & Rubens: L'Ecole de Peinture Anversoise, 1550-1650." One hundred and fifty works by local artists throughout the century.

BRITAIN

Birmingham
Iron Gallery (tel: 643.0708). To April 3: "In Fusion: New European Art." A display of paintings, sculpture, photomedia, installation and performance art by 11 young, contemporary artists.

London
Accademia Italiana delle Arti e delle Arti Applicate (tel: 225.3474). To March 14: "Promemoria: 1968-92." Tissue paper drawings on a grand scale by the Argentinian-born artist Ricardo Cinali.

NATPHE Conference Centre (tel: 837.36.36). To April 17: "Six Women." An exhibition of painting, printmaking, sculpture and textile works by six women.

The South Bank Centre (tel: 921.0886). To March 14: "Gravity and Grace: The Changing Condition of Sculpture." Explores the period from 1965 to 1975. Such artists as Joseph Beuys, Barry Flanner, Mario Merz and Michelangelo Pistoletto are represented.

CANADA

Ottawa
National Gallery of Canada (tel: 930.19.65). To May 9: "Mary Cassatt." The artist's color prints, along with works by some of her contemporaries.

Toronto
Art Gallery of Ontario (tel: 977.04.14). To April 25: "Caricatures." A light-hearted exhibit which displays 29 new acquisitions of humorous, satirical and illustrative graphic art.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague
Museum of Applied Arts (tel: 57.73.06). To March 30: "Borek Špek." The Neanness of the Far Architecture: Design." Furniture, glassware, ceramics and drawings by the Czech designer.

FRANCE

Isère
Musée Jean Virey (tel: 78.36.40.88). To May 31: "Jules Flanckin." A retrospective including more than 300 paintings by the classical artist.

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou (tel: 44.78.12.33). To May 2: "Bernard Bazile." A series of large installations



Photo from "Hidden Americas" exhibit in Washington.

by the French contemporary artist. Grand Palais (tel: 47.22.02.42). To March 8: "SAGA." The yearly art fair for galleries showing graphics and other works in multiple editions. To March 8: "Le Dessin de Collection." More than 30 galleries display their finest 18th- to 19th-century drawings and sketches.

Musee d'Art Modern (tel: 47.23.61.27). To March 14: "Expressionisme en Allemagne: 1905-14." More than 400 paintings, wood engravings, aquarelles, drawings and sculptures by German Expressionist artists. Included are works by Kandinsky, Kirchner, Klee and Mueller.

GERMANY

Berlin
Städtische Museen (tel: 266.2629). To May 31: "Die Eruster und Europa." As part of an effort to promote cultural exchange in the European community, this exhibit of European art is on loan from the French National collection.

IRELAND

Dublin
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.886). To April 18: "Marie Foley: Sculpture." Foley's piece comprised of found objects, porcelain, bog oak and seals, explores human spirituality and ancient cultures.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem
The Israel Museum (tel: 70.88.11). To May 24: "When Grandma and Grandpa were Children." Posters, photographs, books, utensils, toys and games from the '30s and '40s. In addition, there will be a presentation of paintings from a children's art competition which was held in 1943.

se: "Quelconque." The Yugoslav-born artist superimposes beeswax and pigment to form a sort of indeterminate landscape in time and space.

SWEDEN

Stockholm
Nationalmuseum (tel: 666.4250). To April 12: "Munch and Carrière: Two Symbolist Printmakers." Forty prints by the Norwegian and French artists.

SWITZERLAND

Martigny
Fondation Pierre Gianadda (tel: 22.39.76). To June 10: "Retrospective Jean Dubuffet, 1901-85." More than 150 works in various mediums by the French artist.

UNITED STATES

Atlanta
High Museum of Art (tel: 577.6940). To May 30: "Ralph Eugene Meatyard: An American Visionary." A retrospective featuring 129 black-and-white photos.

Houston
Museum of Fine Arts (tel: 528.1361). To April 18: "The Ancient Americas: Art from Sacred Landscapes." The most wide-ranging exhibition of Pre-Columbian art ever held in the U.S. Explores the world view of 13 Pre-Columbian cultures through art, architecture and landscape with 300 objects.

Malibu
The Paul Getty Museum (tel: 488.76.11). To May 8: "Central European Drawings of the 18th and 17th Centuries." Features drawings by German, Swiss and Czech artists. Included are works by Lucas Cranach, Daniel Lindmayer and Karel Škréta.

New York
American Craft Museum (tel: 968.3635). To March 28: Nancy Crow: Work in Transition." More than 30 works by the contemporary quilt-maker, including one-block, bow tie, nontraditional dyed fabrics and surface design. To March 28: "John McQueen: The Language of Constraint." Thirty-nine works by the contemporary basket weaver.

Washington
The Corcoran Gallery of Art (tel: 638.3211). To April 4: "Africa Explores: 20th-Century African Art." More than 100 objects from 15 countries in a variety of different media. Includes painting, sculpture, ceramics, engraving and printing.

National Museum of American Art (tel: 357.2247). To March 29: "Faina and Figures: The World According to David Beck." Six miniaturized, mixed-media constructions which lend a humorous overtone to the artist's presentation of narrative situations.

National Museum of American History (tel: 357.3129). To March 28: "Hidden Americas." Sixty photographs document the lifestyle and culture of Gypsies in the United States between the 1930s and the 1950s.

Groningen
Groninger Museum (tel: 183.343). To April 25: "Mirror of East Asian Art from the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam." Works from China, Japan, India, Indonesia and Nepal executed between the 2d and 17th centuries.

NETHERLANDS

Barcelona
Fundació Joan Miró (tel: 329.19.08). To March 21: "Mija Tu-

Germany's leading national daily and business newspaper

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
P.O. Box 10 08 08 - W-6000 Frankfurt am Main 1
Fax 69/75 91-21 83

NYSE

Thursday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

High Low Last

Symbol	High	Low	Last
IBM	115 1/4	114 3/4	115 1/4
MSFT	41 1/4	40 3/4	41 1/4
ORCL	45 1/4	44 3/4	45 1/4
INTL	11 1/4	11 1/8	11 1/4
DIS	31 1/4	31 1/8	31 1/4
WMT	45 1/4	45 1/8	45 1/4
AMZN	11 1/4	11 1/8	11 1/4
GOOG	11 1/4	11 1/8	11 1/4
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Boeing Says Boom Is Coming In Aircraft Sales and Air Travel

By Lawrence M. Fisher
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Boeing Co. said Thursday that it expected world air travel and demand for new airplanes, to recover from the industry's current slump, resulting in substantial growth by the end of the decade.

The Boeing 1993 Current Market Outlook, released Thursday, predicts that worldwide passenger travel will grow at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent through 2010. As a result, at least 12,000 commercial airplanes will be needed over the next 18 years to accommodate growth and replace older airplanes.

Boeing estimated the value of the 12,000 aircraft at about \$815 billion in 1993 dollars, averaging \$45 billion a year, compared with sales of \$21 billion annually for the past 20 years. Its estimate did not represent a significant change from its projections of a year ago.

Boeing's optimistic outlook comes after two months in which it announced plans to scale back production of all of its commercial aircraft and to eliminate 28,000 jobs over the next 18 months. Boeing said the cuts were necessary because of orders that had been canceled or delayed orders by airlines hit by the global economic slump.

At a news conference in Washington, Richard R. Albrecht, executive vice president of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said that

after an overall traffic decline in 1991, air travel improved during 1992.

"However, especially in the case of the domestic carriers," he said, "some of this growth came at the expense of yield," or revenue per passenger mile, because of the recession and competitive fare-cutting by airlines.

Boeing's overall forecast "remains plausible," said Wolfgang Demisch, an analyst with UBS Securities. But, he said, "The principal uncertainty remains: Does the global trade and investment framework remain as dependent on global transportation in the next 20 years as in the last 20 years? The airlines, at least right now, are in fact fairly close to break-even, and it wouldn't take too much to put them into the black, and perhaps even profitability."

Boeing said the Asia/Pacific region, especially China, would see the highest growth rates in the near future. Japan and China respectively are the second and third largest aircraft markets after the United States. "This highlights the importance to Boeing of maintaining favorable trade relations with Japan and most-favored-nation status for China," Mr. Albrecht said.

For Boeing to capture a significant share of future aircraft sales, it will have to remain competitive with Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

For Boeing, Mr. Demisch said, "the challenge is to get their costs down, get their productivity up and expand their product line."

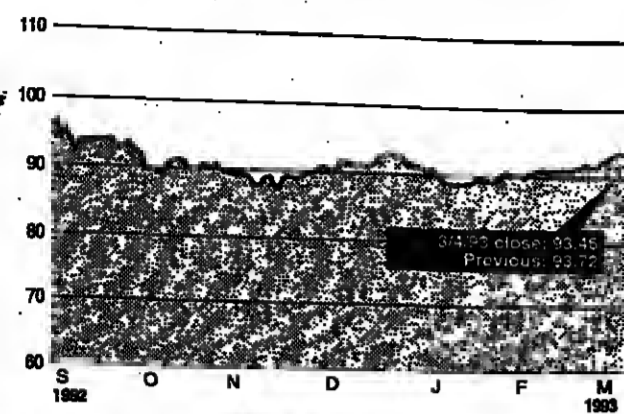
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09/21/2010



THE TRIB INDEX: 93.46 International Herald Tribune World Stock Index of 230 internationally investable stocks from 20 countries...



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in: Tokyo, New York, London, and Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland...

Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Sub-tables for Industrial Sectors (Energy, Utilities, Finance, Services) and a section for Wall Street Watch.

WALL STREET WATCH

AmEx's Ousted Leader Got a Lot, Wants More

By Jon Friedman. NEW YORK — The battle between James D. Robinson 3d and the board of American Express Co. over the embittered former chairman's compensation package is developing into a high-stakes game of poker...

Barclays Loss Brings Dividend Cut

By Erik Ipsen. LONDON — Barclays Bank brought low by £2.54 billion (\$3.68 billion) of bad debts in 1992, reported Thursday its first full-year pre-tax loss since it was incorporated nearly a century ago...

Salomon Loss Underlines Risk In Rate Decline

By Michael Quint. NEW YORK — Salomon Brothers said Thursday it had a loss of \$250 million in the first two months of the year, a reminder that firms that earn big profits on speculative trading also run the risk of comparable losses...

China Mutes Criticism of Hong Kong

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches. HONG KONG — China made only a low-key protest on Thursday over Hong Kong's announcement that it would run a series of deficit budgets between now and 1997...

Firms Face Stiffer Rules In Russia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches. MOSCOW — Foreign companies operating in Russia may soon lose a number of benefits, according to a report Thursday by the Interfax news agency...

French Contracts Frozen In Retaliation by Beijing

Agence France-Press. PARIS — China has frozen some 2 billion francs (\$363 million) of telecommunications contracts in retaliation for France's sale of state-of-the-art fighter planes to Taiwan...

FIDELITY SPECIAL GROWTH FUND

Advertisement for Fidelity Special Growth Fund, including contact information for Kansallis House and details of the annual general meeting.

Virgin Refuses to Take Silence Vow

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches. LONDON — Virgin Atlantic Airways is willing to accept £2 million (\$13 million) in compensation from British Airways PLC for a dirty tricks campaign...

Mainland Firm Buys Control of Laws Property

Bloomberg Business News. HONG KONG — Shares in Laws Property Holdings soared Thursday following the announcement that a company controlled by a major China-based corporation was buying 67.7 percent of the Hong Kong-listed real estate concern...

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Large table containing various financial data including Gross Rates, Eurocurrency Deposits, Key Money Rates, and Forward Rates for different currencies and time periods.

MARKET DIARY Stocks End Lower On Poor U.S. Data

Bloomberg Business News NEW YORK — Sobering news on the U.S. economy pushed stock prices modestly lower on Thursday...

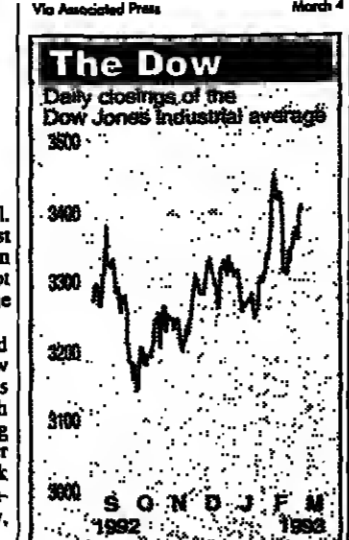


Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for NYSE Most Active.

Table with columns: Open, High, Low, Last, Chg. for Dow Jones Averages.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Chg. for Standard & Poor's Indexes.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Chg. for NYSE Indexes.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Chg. for NASDAQ Indexes.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Chg. for AMEX Stock Index.

Table with columns: High, Low, Close, Chg. for Dow Jones Bond Averages.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for Food.

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for Metals.

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for Financial.

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for Dividends.

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for U.S. Futures.

Table with columns: Close, High, Low, Prev. Close for U.S. Futures.

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

Pepsi Invests \$750 Million in Mexico

NEW YORK (NYT) — The global expansion of American cola companies gathered pace as Pepsi-Cola International said Thursday it would invest \$750 million over the next five years in its operations in Mexico.

Mulford Will Head CS First Boston

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — David C. Mulford, the former undersecretary of the Treasury and vice chairman of First Boston Corp., will be named chairman and chief executive of First Boston's parent, Credit Suisse-First Boston, at year-end.

SCI to Cede Control to Perelman

NEW YORK (AP) — SCI Television Inc. sought protection Thursday under federal bankruptcy laws and said it had already reached agreement with key creditors on a plan that would give control to the financier Ronald O. Perelman.

Philip Morris Rules Out Cadbury Bid

NEW YORK (AP) — A spokesman for Philip Morris Cos. said Thursday that the purchase of the British chocolate manufacturer Terry's means the U.S. company is not at present looking to buy Cadbury-Schweppes PLC.

U.S. Upholds Steel Dumping Duties

WASHINGTON (Knight-Ridder) — The U.S. International Trade Commission, in a final ruling, voted unanimously Thursday to impose duties on subsidized steel imports from Britain, Brazil, France and Germany that it says are harming the U.S. steel industry.

MARKET: Bond Yields Tumble

(Continued from page 1) On Monday, the National Association of Purchasing Management said its index showed that manufacturing is still expanding, but at a slower rate.

Foreign Exchange

that the next move is more likely to be an easing of credit instead of a tightening, said Terrence Pigott, a trader at Daiwa Securities America.

German Rates Unchanged

The dollar fell Thursday after the German central bank left key interest rates unchanged at its biweekly policy meeting, Bloomberg Business News reported from New York.

Oil Prices Hit 4-Month High

NEW YORK — Petroleum prices finished at their highest levels since late October on Thursday. Buying intensified after sellers did not try to take profits from the rally, analysts said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table of World Stock Markets with columns for various cities like Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, London, etc.

NYSE Most Active

Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for NYSE Most Active.

AMEX Most Active

Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for AMEX Most Active.

NYSE Diary

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AMEX Diary

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NASDAQ Diary

Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for NASDAQ Diary.

Market Sales

Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for Market Sales.

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

Table with columns: Vol, High, Low, Last, Chg. for N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading.

S&P 100 Index Options

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Bull's Loss Deepens Amid Market Crisis

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service
PARIS — Underlining the European computer industry crisis, the French state-owned Compagnie des Machines Bull announced Thursday a 1992 net loss of 4.72 billion francs (\$850 million).

computer business. Manufacturers including Olivetti of Italy and Siemens-Nixdorf of Germany have faced substantial losses recently in the face of stiff competition, plunging prices for personal computers and a European recession.

Philips Recovery Hopes Fade Flat Sales Foreseen After Big 1992 Loss

By Barbara Smit
Special to the Herald Tribune
EINDHOVEN, Netherlands — Hopes for an early recovery for Philips Electronics NV grew dimmer Thursday after the company posted a loss of 900 million guilders (\$486.7 million) for 1992, in contrast to profit of 1.1 billion guilders in 1991.

The results were roughly in line with market expectations, partly because some figures had been leaked to the Dutch newspaper Het Financieel Dagblad. Philips shares rose 1.10 guilders in Amsterdam on Thursday, closing at 22.50 guilders.

Steel Firms In Germany Cut Further

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches
Germany's largest steel concern, Thyssen Stahl AG, said Thursday it was closing several plants and cutting 4,500 jobs, while at the rival Krupp group an estimated 20,000 workers downed tools to protest planned job cuts there.

Paris and Rome To Fund SGS Research Effort

PARIS — The French and Italian governments will each contribute 2.55 billion francs (\$495 million) to a 9.43 billion franc research and development program that SGS-Thomson Microelectronics BV will carry out to 1996, the French trade and industry minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said Thursday.

DSM Expects Difficulties to Persist

Bloomberg Business News
HEERLEN, Netherlands — DSM NV, the Dutch chemicals company, said Thursday it expected the deteriorating market situation seen in the fourth quarter of 1992 to drag on.

BBL's Profit and Payout Fall

BRUSSELS — Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA, Belgium's second-largest bank, reported a lower profit and cut its dividend Thursday and said it was making large provisions against losses on its international operations.

EAST: Germany Is Powering an Industrial Rebirth

(Continued from page 1)
cades of Oropolik, Germany is the chief contributor of modern industrial technology and the major Western trading partner of every European country in what was once the Soviet empire.

Table with NYSE logo and 'Thursday's Closing' header. Lists various stock prices and market data.

Table with 'NYSE High-Lows' header. Lists high and low prices for various stocks.

Text block containing various news snippets and financial reports, including a mention of VW's investment in the Czech Republic.

Table titled 'Investor's Europe' showing stock indices for Frankfurt, London, and Paris, along with exchange rates and percentage changes.

Very briefly:
Alcatel-Alsthom's chairman, Pierre Suard, said Alcatel might take a stake in France Telecom if the state-owned company were privatized.

Hoechst Denies Cancer Risk
FRANKFURT — Hoechst AG said Thursday a toxic substance that escaped from its Frankfurt plant and blanketed a suburb with a sticky yellow film had not caused any increased cancer risk.

Advertisement for swissair featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'People at the top read the Trib.' and 'Herald Tribune' logo.

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF DAIWA CAPITAL - L.C.F. EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND. Includes meeting details and agenda items.

Profitable Brierley Is to Raise Funds

Wellington — New Zealand's Brierley Investments Ltd. posted an improved six-month net profit on Thursday despite its depressed British hotel operations, and then surprised the market by asking shareholders for more funds to pay for acquisitions.

BIL, the investment company founded by Sir Ron Brierley and now run by protégés who ousted him, reported a profit of 112.7 million New Zealand dollars (\$58 million) for the six months to Dec. 31, up 24.5 percent from the year-earlier period. BIL said it was confident of an increased annual result, too.

But BIL shares fell 9 cents to 1 dollar as the market reacted to the announcement that the company would issue one interest-bearing convertible note for every eight shares held, at 85 cents per note, to raise 270 million dollars.

Revenue in the six months fell 60 percent to 1.1 billion dollars. Debt

fell to 3.92 billion dollars from 4.1 billion a year earlier.

The chairman, Bob Mathew, said the group's operating companies contributed two-thirds of the overall profit.

BIL has more than 30 percent of its assets tied up in Mount Charlotte PLC, the British hotel concern of which it owns 70 percent. Hit by Britain's recession, Mount Charlotte had a profit of just £2.1 million (\$3.03 million).

Earnings from all British investments, hit by the pound's devaluation, fell to 5 million dollars from 123 million a year earlier.

Mr. Mathew said better performance in New Zealand units reflected corporate restructuring and an improving local economy.

Air New Zealand, in which Brierley holds 35 percent of the Class A shares, has reported an 8.7 percent rise in half-year profit.

The New Zealand tower, DB Group, formerly known as M&G Corp., resumed to profit in the latest half, Brierley said. Brierley holds a 27 percent investment in DB.

Brierley said investments in Australia turned to a profit of 23 million New Zealand dollars.

June Debut In H.K. for China Firm

HONG KONG — The first of China's state-run companies wishing to list shares in Hong Kong will probably debut in June, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange said Thursday. First to the gate is expected to be Shanghai Petroleum.

Paul Chow said at an American Chamber of Commerce luncheon that the only hold-up in listing the companies was compliance with Hong Kong's listing rules and regulations.

Protection for minority shareholders has been a particular stumbling block, he said. China has no laws protecting minority shareholder rights.

Beijing said in October that nine state-run companies would be permitted to raise capital by listing in Hong Kong. But to list shares, the companies must comply with exchange disclosure rules, something they have never had to submit to before.

The "China Nine," as they are known in Hong Kong, include large industrial companies from every corner of the country.

The debut of Chinese stocks will change the face of the colony's exchange, which is largely made up of smaller, light-industrial companies.

"The Chinese companies will provide a good mix for investors to choose from when they look to the Hong Kong market," Mr. Chow said. "We're going to see the Hong Kong market develop hand-in-hand with China."

India to Ease Currency Rules Reform Plan Brings Fresh Liberalization

NEW DELHI — Finance Minister Manmohan Singh revealed Thursday that he planned further easing of exchange controls as part of his economic overhaul.

In an interview with the Economic Times, published Thursday, Mr. Singh said his weekend budget was designed to consolidate a reform program that has reversed four decades of socialism and to revive industrial growth hurt by earlier cuts in spending.

Although Mr. Singh floated the rupee on Tuesday, he said other exchange controls remained. Many of these would be lifted over the next 18 months and would mean the rupee could be traded under free-market conditions for travel abroad, the repatriation of profits by multinational companies and for trade purposes. The rupee has strengthened this week.

Mr. Singh promised further reforms, including cuts in subsidies, possible decontrol of oil prices and introduction of a labor policy, easing strict rules against firing workers that make foreign companies leery of entering the market.

John Ward Anderson of The Washington Post reported earlier.

The Indian government has proposed broad economic measures to entice foreign investment, unshackle the purchasing power of India's huge middle class and boost sales of Indian goods abroad.

The proposals are among the most significant in an economic liberalization process that was begun 20 months ago and that is designed to dismantle India's Soviet-style command economy and replace it with a free-market system favored by the West.

At its core, the program is designed to propel India into the global market by making it easier and cheaper for foreign companies to do business here, lowering the cost of imported raw materials and making Indian-made products more competitive.

The plan would drastically lower India's protectionist tariff rates, some of which are as high as 150 percent, and reduce excise taxes on domestic goods.

"This is a very, very good step forward," said Sam Singh, president of Du Pont Far East Inc. and head of the American Business Council in Delhi.

The 'Big Bull,' Dehorned for Now

BOMBAY — Harshad Mehta, the immensely wealthy broker at the heart of India's stock-market scandal, says that all he did was to help bankers arbitrage from the modest yields of the money market to the then-spectacular returns of the equities market.

Mr. Mehta, 40, was known as the "Big Bull" who moved the market almost single-handedly when he was arrested last June. He spent 110 days in jail, charged with fraud for his alleged part in siphoning off \$1.8 billion from the interbank money market to play the stock market.

The market boom that he helped to fuel turned to bust last April, wiping billions of dollars off share values and triggering a broad revamping of the operations of major

banks, including foreign ones. The market still has not fully recovered.

In an interview, Mr. Mehta said he had done nothing wrong. "All the players in the market were following the same system. We never thought it was criminal." He asserted that in India, "capital creation has always been seen to be a crime."

In last year's affair, Mr. Mehta said, bankers wanting to earn higher returns breached an "artificial wall" between markets. "Returns in the money market, where there was a huge fund flow, were averaging 9 to 15 percent whereas the returns in the capital market were averaging 200 to 300 percent," he said.

Investigators said his complex securities deals violated central bank guidelines.

Whatever the truth of Mr. Mehta's activities, investors are bound to look back on the Bombay Stock

Investor's Asia			
Index	1992	1993	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10,500	10,000	-4.8
Singapore Straits Times	1,800	1,850	+2.8
Tokyo Nikkei 225	15,000	14,500	-3.3
Exchange Index			
Hong Kong	6,467.80	6,438.84	-0.46
Singapore	1,858.82	1,892.05	+1.79
Sydney	1,622.90	1,626.10	+0.20
Tokyo	16,756.81	16,883.92	+0.76
Composite			
Bangkok	636.67	636.44	-0.04
SET	903.47	905.88	+0.26
Sao Paulo	822.22	836.44	+1.72
Taipei	4,337.32	4,582.61	+5.67
Composite			
Manila	1,539.85	1,516.57	-1.52
Jakarta	304.77	300.84	-1.31
New Zealand	1,588.10	1,588.03	-0.005
Bombay	1,145.40	1,153.90	+0.74

Very briefly:

- Sales in Japan of imported motor vehicles rose 11 percent in February from a year earlier, to 14,117 units, marking the first increase in five months, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said.
- Rayong Refinery Co. said it had signed a letter of intent with a consortium of Raytheon Co. and Fluor Corp. for a \$2.2 billion refinery in Thailand; Rayong is a joint venture between Royal Dutch/Shell and the state-owned Petroleum Authority of Thailand.
- NKK Corp. said its U.S. subsidiary National Steel would invest about \$130 million to upgrade blast-furnace facilities at two of its works.
- Metallgesellschaft AG has formed a joint venture with Padaseg Industry Co. to set up a \$320 million lead and zinc smelter plant in Thailand, according to Padaseg, which will own 51 percent of the venture.
- Tuxen Distinct Corp. has signed a 9 billion Taiwan dollar (\$349 million) contract to explore for crude oil in China's southwestern Sichuan province, according to news reports in Taiwan.
- Toshiba Corp. said it had started selling high-speed semiconductor circuits for use in notebook-sized personal computers.
- Saengyong Oil Refining Co., South Korea's third-largest refiner, said its net profit soared 91.5 percent to 77.2 billion won (\$97 million) in 1992. The rise reflected foreign-currency gains and higher interest income since a capital injection by Aramco, the Saudi Arabian oil company, which purchased 35 percent of Saengyong.

Compass Goes Into Voluntary Receivership

Sydney — Southern Cross Airlines Holdings Ltd. said Thursday its Compass Airlines unit would go into voluntary receivership after failing to secure a rescue package of 9.2 million Australian dollars (\$6.5 million).

Southern Cross said it had sought the appointment of a receiver-manager, who would be instructed to continue commercial operations during talks with bankers to save Compass.

Trading in Southern Cross shares was suspended Wednesday as the company's request pending resolution of the financial problem.

Compass last week announced a half-year loss of 10.9 million dollars, which far exceeded the full-year loss of 7.5 million dollars forecast in the airline's prospectus.

Company officials said last week that the airline had secured the funding package but was negotiating for an additional 10 million dollars following its half-year loss.

News Corp. Issues Notes

News Corp. announced plans Thursday for a convertible debt issue to raise between 450 million and 500 million Australian dollars (\$318 million to \$353 million), which analysts said would represent a dilution of Rupert Murdoch's 34 percent family stake in the media giant, Agence France Presse reported from Sydney.

In the latest of a series of moves to reduce bank debt, the company said one of its subsidiaries would issue liquid yield option notes, due in 2013, exchangeable for common shares in News Corp.

Microsoft Warns Japanese on Software Piracy

TOKYO — Microsoft Corp., seeking to "educate" Japanese computer makers, on Thursday said it was warning them of legal action if its products are pirated.

Microsoft, the world's top maker of personal computer software, said it would notify 50 Japanese computer and software companies by letter that it may take legal action against companies that copy its software products without authorization.

"Our goal is to educate and possibly start speaking up at the market," said Kei Moxin, spokeswoman at Microsoft's Japan unit. She said it was hard to estimate the scale of piracy in Japan but Microsoft wanted to nip it in the bud.

Microsoft has decided to get tough at a time of increasing tension between Japan and the United States over high-technology fields seen as keys to economic growth.

A Microsoft official said the company was taking the lead in highlighting a problem that concerns software companies all over the world and one that is not taken as seriously in Japan as elsewhere.

U.S. companies regard Asian countries as lax on enforcement of computer software copyright laws.

Microsoft is the maker of MS-DOS, the world's most widely used personal-computer operating system. The company also sells word-processing and business software packages and has a 44 percent share of the world personal-computer software market, according to the industry analysis Dataquest Inc.

Users of Microsoft products in Japan include NEC Corp., Japan's largest maker of personal computers, and Fujitsu Ltd., the world's second largest computer manufacturer.

Computer makers in Japan acknowledge that software piracy is also a problem for them. But they say they may have a high-tech solution.

Fujitsu is looking at magneto-optical disk technology to provide a defense against pirats. Using the large storage space of these disks, a computer operating system as well as software could be stored on one locked disk that could not be duplicated.

Hang Seng Bank Profit Rises 26%

LONDON — HSBC Holdings PLC said Thursday that its Hang Seng Bank Ltd. unit's profit rose 26 percent, to 5.7 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$737.3 million) in 1992, from 4.5 billion dollars in 1991. Earnings per share rose to 3.83 dollars from 3.04 dollars.

The company plans a final dividend of 1.17 dollars a share and a special dividend of 27 cents a share — for a total for the year of 2 dollars a share, up from 1 dollar in 1991 — and two stock dividends totaling three new shares for every 10 shares held. Midland Bank PLC, also owned by HSBC, posted sharply higher profit Wednesday.

Ford to Buy Orbital Engines

MELBOURNE — Australia's Orbital Engine Corp. said Thursday that Ford Motor Co. had confirmed its intention to purchase its two-stroke engines from a plant in Michigan for evaluation. Orbital also said its profit for the six months to Dec. 31 fell 54 percent to 4.56 million Australian dollars (\$3.23 million).

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Netherlands Fl.	710	60	380	215
Norway N.Kr.	3,900	60	1,800	950
Portugal Esc.	45,000	60	25,000	13,750
Spain Pes.	45,000	30	25,000	13,750
Switzerland S.Fr.	890	60	330	180
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SPORTS ATHLETICS

Atlético Gets Tie In Athens

Antwerp Foiled By Bucharest

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

With a first half goal by forward Gabriel Moya, Atlético Madrid got a 1-1 draw Thursday against Olympiakos Piraeus in a first-leg quarter-final match of the European Cup Winners' Cup tournament.

That made Atlético's effort to advance to the semifinals easier, with the second-leg match to be played in Madrid on March 18.

Before a crowd of 53,000 in Athens' Olympic stadium, Atlético applied its usual forcing tactics while Olympiakos counterattacked.

In the fourth minute, Mamel Alfaro missed on a good scoring opportunity with a shot that hit the crossbar.

But six minutes later, Moya, after a perfect pass from German midfielder Bernd Schuster, easily beat goalkeeper Giorgos Mirtos from close range.

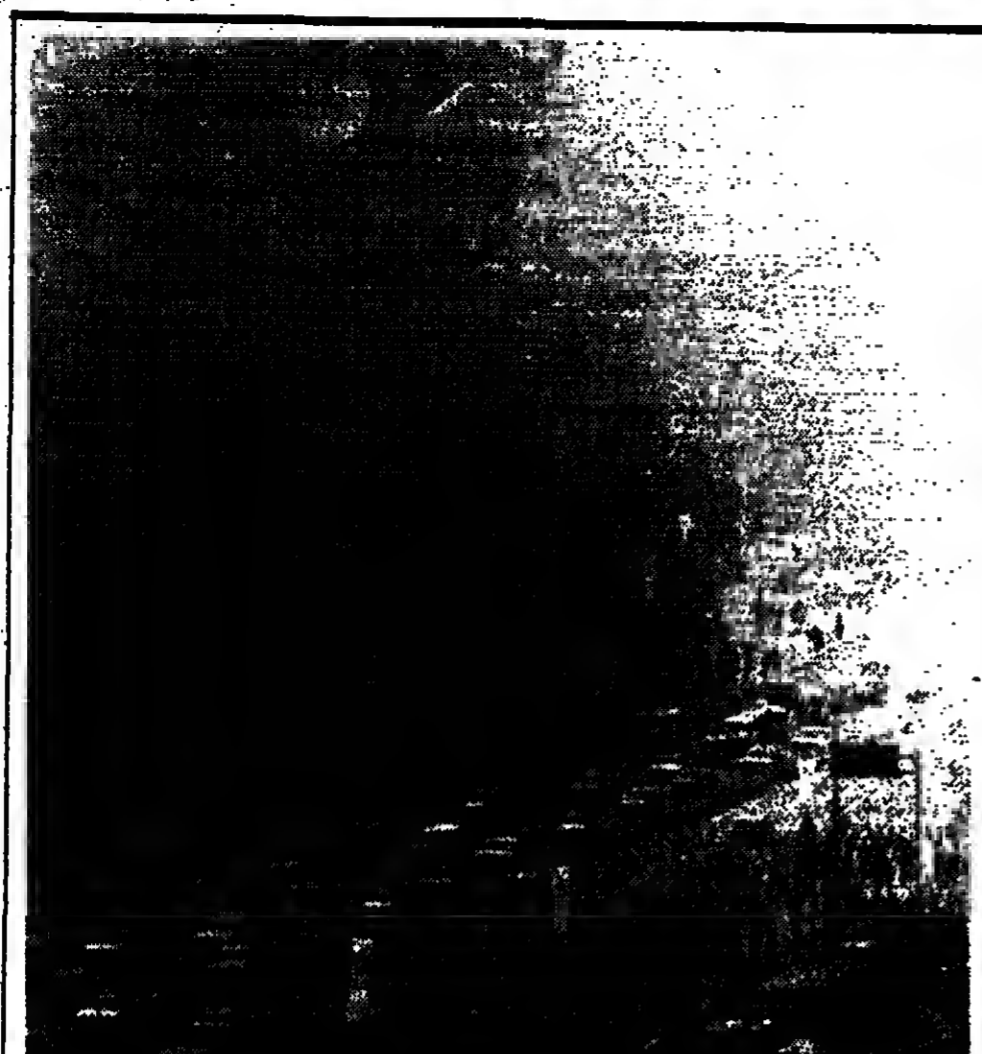
Medic forward Luis Garcia also hit the crossbar in the 21st minute, and Atlético lost yet another major opportunity in the 45th minute when Mirtos stopped a penalty kick taken by Alfaro.

Olympiakos came close to scoring in the 12th minute, but goalkeeper Ahel Resino Gómez stopped a shot by Portuguese striker Daniel Batista.

Olympiakos regrouped at half time and tied the score in the 64th minute with a goal by forward Giorgos Vaitas after a center from Sotiris Mavrommatis.

But that was the only ball to get past Gómez, who blocked a series of shots in helping his team preserve the draw.

Olympiakos came close to scoring in the 12th minute, but goalkeeper Ahel Resino Gómez stopped a shot by Portuguese striker Daniel Batista.



GAMES FACE — Beijing, two days before an IOC inspection group's visit that will help decide whether the city was the bid for the 2000 Summer Games, was blanketed in smog Thursday.

IAAF Says Drug Test on Johnson Showed High Testosterone Level

The Associated Press

LONDON — Ben Johnson showed unusually high levels of testosterone in one of three recent drug tests, officials of the International Amateur Athletic Federation said Thursday.

"Of the three controls, there was one whose results appear suspicious," said Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IAAF's drug commission. "We will be examining those results Friday."

The five-member panel will meet in Paris to discuss the test carried out on Johnson at a Jan. 17 meet in Montreal.

Johnson faces a lifetime ban because he was suspended once before, in 1988 at the Olympics in Seoul. He was also stripped of the gold medal he won and the world record he set in the 100 meters before testing positive for steroids.

According to IAAF sources, the first and third tests taken in Canada were negative, while the second showed high levels of testosterone, a steroid-related substance that enables athletes to train more strenuously and recover more quickly.

Testosterone is listed under the category of anabolic steroids in the International Olympic Committee's anti-drug charter. It is a male hormone that normally exists in the body at a ratio of 1-to-1 to another hormone, epitestosterone. A ratio surpassing 6-to-1 is considered a positive test.

The IAAF first declined to confirm or deny that Johnson was under investigation, then announced that its drug panel would meet in Paris to discuss Johnson's test.

"Originally the commission planned to meet at the end of the indoor season, but now that the story's out, we must have a decision quickly so that the world knows what's going on," said the IAAF's general secretary, Istvan Gyulai.

In addition to Ljungqvist, the members of the drug commission are Dr. Gabriel Dolle of France, Professor Manfred Donike of Germany, Professor Antonio Dal Monte of Italy, and the American lawyer Frank Greenberg.

Johnson is not expected to attend the meeting, nor are any of his representatives. The IAAF said that is customary for commission meetings.

If the panel confirms a positive finding, Johnson will be suspended immediately, pending an appeal hearing. Any hearing would be conducted by Athletics Canada, the nation's governing body for track and field. Final recourse would be an appeal to an IAAF arbitration panel.

Earlier, *Flip Bondy of The New York Times* reported: Canadian officials are working behind the scenes to persuade Johnson to retire before the world comes to Toronto next week for the indoor track and field championships.

Athletics Canada said it had not received a positive test regarding Johnson from either the Canadian Center for Drug-Free Sports, or from the IAAF. But according to two international track and field officials close to the situation, Athletics Canada has been urging Johnson to retire from the sport for the past two weeks, since rumors began circulating about a possible positive test.

The world indoor championships will take place in Toronto next week and officials are deeply concerned that Johnson's problems will command more attention than the meet.

The Toronto Star reported Wednesday that Johnson had shown a high level of testosterone. He was tested three times over a six-day period in January, after two meets in Hamilton, Ontario, Montreal and Toronto.

Johnson immediately denied the use of testosterone or any drug, issuing a statement Wednesday through the Toronto law firm of McMillan Binch. "Mr. Johnson denies taking any prohibited substance or engaging in any improper practice since his return to competition," the statement read.

Johnson's manager in Toronto, Kameel Azan, said his client had no intention of yielding to any pressure to quit the sport.

"This is a manager's nightmare," Azan said. "We're just disillusioned about the whole thing. Nobody has a positive on him. He doesn't take this thing lightly, believe me. We're just hoping and praying this thing goes away."

Johnson, who has been coached recently by Percy Duncan of Toronto, appears ready to battle any conviction or penalty. He stands a fair chance, because testosterone levels are slippery gauges. Some American stars have escaped punishment despite ratios close to 8-to-1.

Duncan, 74, said he was "in space right now" and added, "Let's wait to hear what the IAAF has to say."

Reports about Johnson's training routine began in earnest in Barcelona, at the 1992 Summer Olympics, when several newspapers reported that the sprinter was back with his former coach, Charlie Francis. Johnson failed even to qualify for the finals of his specialty, the 100 meters, but made headlines nonetheless for being banished after a tussle with a security guard.

Francis denied Wednesday that he had resumed any relationship with Johnson. "I wasn't with him in Barcelona, and my passport proves it," Francis said.

Deal-Making Snails Ahead In Baseball

The Associated Press

Contracts are still in the news, but most of the members being discussed at this time of year are thousands, not millions.

The Atlanta Braves have threatened to renew Deion Sanders' contract Thursday. The Braves negotiated with Sanders' agent, Eugene Parker, until late Wednesday night but could not agree on either a one-year or multiyear deal.

The Texas Rangers renewed 1992 home run champion Juan Gonzalez's contract after the two sides could not agree on a deal.

"The difference in proposals between the two sides on a one-year contract was so great that we were unable to reach an agreement," said the Rangers' general manager, Tom Grieve.

Rodriguez made \$325,000 last season when he hit 43 home runs.

"A renewal is not something that we wanted to do, but under the circumstances, that was the only way to resolve the situation," Grieve said.

Gonzalez, who hit .260 with 109 RBIs in 155 games last year, will be eligible to file for salary arbitration after the 1993 season.

Outfielder Moises Alou of the Montreal Expos also had his contract renewed. Alou, runner-up in National League rookie of the year voting last year, refused to sign for the club's last offer of \$210,000, so he was renewed at what he and his agent predicted would be a smaller figure, possibly \$200,000.

Alou followed through on a threat to boycott the start of spring training Feb. 27, holding out for two hours. He then joined workouts after talking with his father and the Expos' manager, Felipe Alou.

Also having their contracts renewed by the Expos were pitcher Brian Barnes, first baseman Greg Colburn and catcher Raul Santana.

The American League rookie of the year, Pat Listach, agreed to terms with the Milwaukee Brewers on a one-year deal worth a reported \$350,000.

Carlton Fisk, the 45-year-old catcher, signed a contract in the face of an ultimatum by the Chicago White Sox chairman of the board, Jerry Reinsdorf, to report by Wednesday — or risk having the \$800,000 offer rescinded.

Injuries are continued to be reported.

Dave Fleming, Seattle's winningest pitcher, is undergoing tests to determine the cause of recurring discomfort in his pitching elbow. So far, bone chips have been ruled out, but a magnetic resonance imaging test will determine if the left-hander sustained ligament or tendon damage.

Kansas City pitcher Mike Bodicker underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee and is expected to be out two to four weeks.

Pittsburgh center fielder Andy Van Slyke had his sore right knee examined but the magnetic resonance imaging was inconclusive. He was to undergo a CAT scan Thursday.

Bo Jackson, playing baseball for the first time in almost a year after hip replacement surgery, was hobbled by a strained right hamstring as he trotted out two ground balls in a White Sox intrasquad game.

"The dirt out there was too soft," Jackson said. "At least I can see the ball. I'm swinging the bat a lot better than I did last year."

Vote Backs Change In Playoffs, Leagues

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The owners of major league baseball's team gave preliminary approval Thursday to expanded playoffs, interleague play and splitting each league into three divisions as early as 1995.

No timetable was set for the dramatic changes, but most owners said two years would be needed. They also cautioned that the changes would need approval from the Major League Baseball Players Association.

In two votes, owners directed John Harrington of the Boston Red Sox, chairman of the schedule-format committee, to develop 1994 test schedules that will have three divisions in each league, and versions with and without interleague play.

Bud Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers, who is chairman of the ruling executive council, said both votes were overwhelming but not unanimous, and described them as preliminary approval while Harrington called it "a very important step."

Owners said 10 to 20 interleague games per season would be included in some draft schedules, and that the interleague games would involve natural rivalries. They said the moves were sparked by a belief that baseball needed to change.

"We're in a very competitive business with a lot of forms of entertainment," Selig said. "There's no industry that can afford to sit back."

The only interleague play since the American League formed in 1900 has been during spring training, the All-Star game and the World Series. The leagues have been divided into two divisions since 1969.

Whether to change the length of the regular-season schedule from 162 games wasn't addressed in Thursday's votes. That is being left up to Harrington's group to propose.

Earlier, *Murray Chass of The New York Times* reported: As the club owners gathered six months to the day after they asked Fay Vincent to resign as commissioner, there was a growing movement among them to delay the selection of a new commissioner until they have negotiated new labor and television contracts.

A timetable for the selection of a commissioner has not been a topic of discussion at any of the seven owners meetings in the last six months. The debate has been conducted on an informal, low-key basis because owners want to be on record as pushing for the status quo, the absence of a commissioner.

But the owners also risk further arousing the ire of members of Congress who have been threatening to take action against baseball's antitrust exemption. It is the owners' ouster of Vincent in September that caught the attention of some members of Congress and prompted a hearing of a Senate committee into the exemption in December.

Thursday Senator Howard D. Mankin, the Democrat from Ohio who is chairman of the Senate judiciary subcommittee on antitrust, monopolies and business rights, and Senator Connie Mack, the Republican from Florida who is the grandson of baseball's legendary manager Connie Mack, introduced legislation aimed at ending baseball's antitrust exemption.



Lou Piniella, the new manager of the Seattle Mariners, turned poser for photographers outside the training camp in Peoria, Arizona.

White Sox chairman of the board, Jerry Reinsdorf, to report by Wednesday — or risk having the \$800,000 offer rescinded.

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"The dirt out there was too soft," Jackson said. "At least I can see the ball. I'm swinging the bat a lot better than I did last year."

SIDELINES

Narozhilenko Breaks Record Again

SEVILLE (AP) — Lyudmila Narozhilenko of Russia twice broke her world indoor record in the 60-meter hurdles Thursday, finishing in 7.63 seconds to shave .03 seconds off the mark of 7.66 seconds she had set in a semifinal heat less than an hour earlier.

The record is the 29-year-old runner's third in the event this week. She ran a then-record 7.68 on Tuesday in San Sebastian, Spain.

For the Record

The Honda Open golf tournament in Hamburg was moved from October to June 10-13 to fill the gap caused by the previous cancellation of the Monte Carlo Open, the PGA European Tour said.

Plans for Atlanta's Olympic Stadium were delayed again when the country board of commissioners voted against a deal letting the Atlanta Braves move into the facility after the 1996 Games.

The Kenya Amateur Athletic Association appointed a five-man panel to meet March 18 to consider the refusal of John Ngugi, the five-time world cross country champion, to take a drug test two weeks ago.

Coran Ivansson, the sixth seed, No. 7 Andre Agassi and No. 8 Michael Stich were eliminated as upsets continued at the Champions Cup in Indian Wells, California. Alberto Mancini of Argentina defeated Ivansson, Marc Rosset beat Agassi and Fabrice Santoro of France took out Stich.

Jockey Club Steps Up Fight Against Drugging of Horses

Reuters

LONDON — The Jockey Club said Thursday it was stepping up its battle against racehorse dopers in Britain by offering a reward of as much as £5,000 (\$7,250) for information leading to conviction.

A confidential hot line is to be put into operation on a 24-hour basis next Tuesday.

It is one of a number of initiatives being introduced in the wake of the "nabbing" of Flash Of Straw last August and Her Honour last month, officials said.

In the future, trainers and jockeys that suspect that a horse has been tampered with can withdraw it from a race at any time and request a drug test.

"It will be treated as a private test so there will be no charge, and then, if it is positive, the trainer will be absolved of his normal responsibility," said the Jockey Club's head of security, Roger Duffham.

He said it would place an uncertainty in the minds of the dopers because they would never know if the horse would actually run.

Duffham, who commands a team of 45 full-time and 90 part-time investigators, defended the decision not to publicize the dopings and said police had leads in both cases.

"It is not sufficient to catch the stable lad with a smoking syringe," he said. "It is very difficult to prove. We have to prove the full conspiracy and who the benefactor was."

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TODAY'S REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE

Appears on Page 4

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OBSERVER

A Fork in the Logic

By Russell Baker
WASHINGTON — "White man speak with forked tongue," observed several generations of Hollywood Indians...

Chan was afflicted with an impetuous son who habitually jumped to the wrong conclusion about whatever his father happened to be investigating...

thought out according to the precept of Chan. This emboldens me to suggest that the president's wife needs to get the fork out of her thinking about health matters.

She is, of course, in charge of creating a sensible health-care program. It is a costly proposition, and speculation is that new taxes on tobacco and alcohol will be required to finance the program.

Why, then, has the president's wife banned smoking in the White House? The publicity flowing from her example is bound to be yet another blow to cigarette sales.

In Hollywood-Indianspeak, it is forked logic. Her political wisdom is also questionable. If the health-care program is to be financed by cigarette smokers and cigarette smoking is forbidden in the White House...

Fairness, Stephanopoulos! Fairness demands that the White House smoke its fair share.

Charlie Chan might suspect there is more afoot here than meets the eye. It is comforting to think that clean-living, nonsmoking, outboozing folks can get a nice new health-care program free by riding on the backs of smoky and vicious sinners.

Playing on Brains And Funny Bones

By Bruce Weber
NEW YORK — For anyone who saw "Largely New York," Bill Irwin's 1989 Broadway show about a clown encountering the city's mundane technology...

This is just an everyday workout — "Not every day," Irwin says, guiltily — but admits that he's long had it in mind to do a routine set in a gym, and so he begins experimenting.

As the conveyor belt continues to convey, Irwin feigns a gasp and ceases to keep up with it. In an acrobatic instant, his feet are out from under him. His head and upper body pitched backward. His hands grab the handrails, but somehow his legs have become tangled up in the frame of the machine, requiring an elastic unwinding of himself.

"One of the things about clowning is that you're calling out a bag of tricks that has to be put together over the course of a life," he says. "So I meet kids who are 19 and who are interested in clowning. And I think, 'I wish I had your muscles and your strength.' But at the same time, you realize they haven't had time, so that given a comic opportunity they don't have nine different things to choose from."

It is the physical dexterity combined with a genuinely cerebral bent that gives Irwin's talents their special colors. Impulsive and curious on the one hand, perpetually flummoxed and chastened on the other, Irwin's onstage personality borrows from both Charlie Chaplin and Emmet Kelly.

Irwin has appeared in several films (among them "Eight Men Out" and "Scenes From a Marriage") and on television, in his recurring role on the CBS series "Northern Exposure." But at the moment, he's concentrating on his second Broadway show, "Fool Moon," a clown diet with his friend David Shiner, which

opened at the Richard Rodgers Theatre last week to ebullient reviews.

An elaboration of a two-night stand the men performed at the Serious Fun festival at Lincoln Center last summer, "Fool Moon" features the music of the Red Clay Ramblers, a country-folk band. In the show, Shiner and Irwin each perform solo turns as well as bounce off each other, literally and artistically. The show also involves much audience participation, and its creators say it has something of a dramatic line, though how to describe it remains a little mysterious.

"It deals with the place of the clown in the world," Irwin says, "It has to do with making jokes about what we're afraid of."

"I've taught a lot of clown stunts," he says, "and a lot of the students, the college students particularly, think: 'I would never do that sort of clowning. The violence. It's abhorrent to me.' And then, in class, somebody will just get it right, really swing their arm and get it right, and everybody goes, 'Ooooooh!'"

The process of making physical comedy, he says, is different from verbal comedy, more primal. But the guidelines are more elusive. What's funny ends up being a matter of what "feels right."

By the same token, he says, people who are not comics tend to see a thing as either funny or not funny. "But for me," he continues, "in between there's all kinds of gradations. I've been on stage and done something, and it was a pretty big laugh but I thought to myself, 'Ouch! Going in the wrong direction,' because it was a laugh about the wrong thing."

A fair-complexioned, compactly built man with a gentle manner and a voice that bends rather musically in rumination, Irwin lives in a loft near the gym with his wife, Martha Roth, a former actress who is now a student midwife. They met 11 years ago, when she was a masseuse and he had a crack in his neck. They have adopted a Guatemalan baby, now 2.

To get to this point, Irwin has traveled a peripatetic path. He was born in Southern California and grew up mostly in Tulsa,



Even the treadmill at his gym becomes a potential comic prop for Bill Irwin.

Oklahoma, where his father worked as an aeronautical engineer. He spent his last year in high school as an exchange student in Belfast. He has a degree in theater arts from Oberlin College in Ohio, and in 1974 he graduated from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Clown College in Venice, Florida.

"Largely New York" owes its existence to the MacArthur. Even with television and movies a regular part of his professional life, his talents have been most fully showcased on the stage, both in his own concoctions and in two productions of Samuel Beckett plays. He admits that as an actor he can sometimes trip on clumsy clown's feet. "You use different muscles," he says. "Sometimes I'll go in for an audition and I'll approach the part as an actor, looking for an interesting tack to take on the text. And the casting person will say to the director: 'This is Bill Irwin. I don't know whether you know him, but he does the funniest falling-down stuff, ha ha ha.' And suddenly I'm thinking I have something to prove. So I'm doing the scene trying to throw some stunts in there to prove how right the guy was, and then I might as well give up because I'm there either as a clown or as an actor. I'm stuck somewhere in the middle."

PEOPLE

Radio Days With Dad: Reagan's Son on the Air

Reagans redux: Michael Reagan, the adopted son of former President Ronald Reagan and the actress Jane Wyman, has rediscovered his dad and taken to national radio with a syndicated show. The angry young man — who once publicly complained that his father never met his youngest child until she was nearly 2 — is taking a more sentimental approach. "I spend more time with him now than ever," he told The Washington Post. "I took the initiative of hugging him and telling him I love him." Meanwhile, Ron Reagan is taking another crack at television, this time on the Fox network. The son of the former president and Nancy Reagan will be a correspondent for a prime-time news magazine. He used to have a late-night talk show, and was a correspondent for ABC's "Good Morning America."

The Grammy-winning reggae performer Shabba Ranks was pulled from "The Tonight Show" guest lineup because of anti-gay remarks he had made earlier. He later apologized for the remarks, made in December on the British TV talk show "The Word." Ranks had said "Room Bye Bye," a song by Ebuu Boston advocating violence against gays, was "most definitely right." His publicist said he had agreed to produce and distribute a public service announcement opposing violence against homosexuals.

The only known copy of an Oliver Hardy film lost for decades has been presented to the Netherlands Film Museum by a private collector. The film, "A Bankrupt Homebody," was given to the museum after a previously lost Stan Laurel film attracted huge attention at the Olie Centennial in Amsterdam last year. The new acquisition stars Hardy, without his sidekick, Laurel.

A heavy cold has forced Queen Elizabeth to cancel engagements her second illness in about two months. In Nepal, Princess Diana spent an hour visiting with patients in a leprosy hospital.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED
Appears on Pages 4 & 17

WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for various regions including Europe, North America, Asia, and Latin America. Columns include location, temperature, and weather conditions.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution to the puzzle from March 4.

BRIDGE

Bridge game section including a North (D) hand, a West hand, and a South hand, with a commentary on the play.

BOOKS

SWING, SWING, SWING: The Life and Times of Benny Goodman
By Ross Firestone. 522 pages. \$29.95. Norton.
Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley
BENNY GOODMAN lived a long, successful and decidedly public life but he was the most private of men, one who kept to himself just about every emotion...

1986 is one of attempts to cope with a changing culture. Firestone covers all of this in careful detail. The central figures of Goodman's musical life are all here. So too is his wife, Alice, and the woman with whom he became involved after her death, Carol Phillips. Firestone's omissions are distinctly minor. He does not explain why young Benny was allowed by his parents to go directly into jazz rather than classical music. He also provides no discography, though a full one would be as long as the book itself, a shorter one of Goodman performances available on compact disks would have been useful. But these really are quibbles; "Swing, Swing, Swing" is in all important respects first-rate.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

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